

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

*Food, Feeding,  
& Feedback*

*December 11-12*

## Booklet of Abstracts

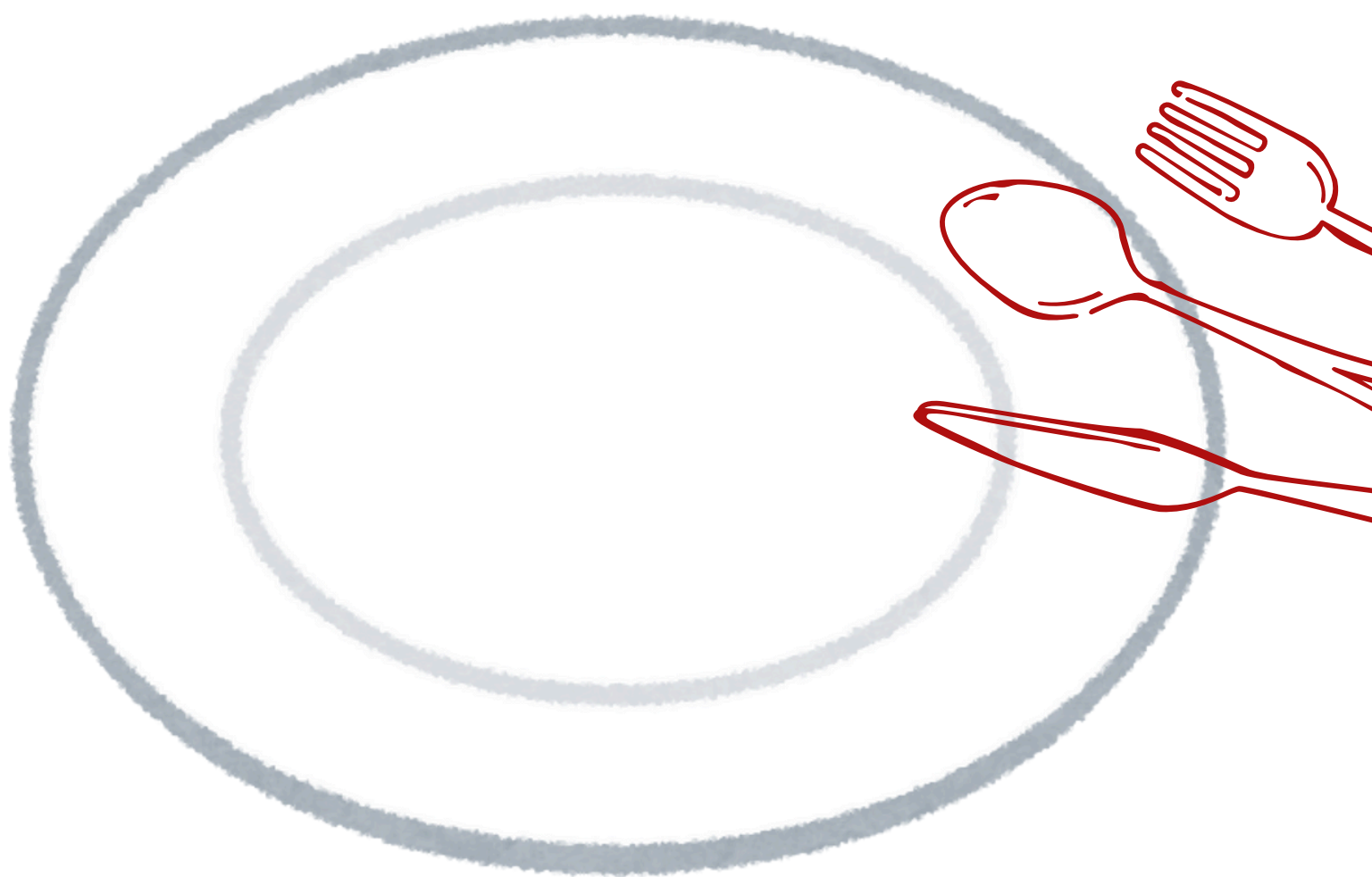


**venue: The Faculty of Arts  
and Humanities of Sousse**



# **Booklet of Abstracts**

## **QR code**



# Keynote Speakers



# Prof. Abdellatif Ben Halima

University of Sousse

## “Food Performativity: Eating (as) Ideology”

### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Prof. Abdellatif Ben Halima is an Associate Professor and the former Head of the English Department at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sousse, Tunisia. He teaches British and American Theatre, Critical and Cultural Theories, and Performance Studies to graduate and postgraduate students. His research interests revolve around performance theories and contemporary cultural and critical theories. He has specialized in the study of Samuel Beckett's theatre and has published various articles in Tunisia and abroad. He also published a book: *The Death of Drama? Postdrama, Posthumanism, and the Aesthetics of Liveness in Three Plays by Samuel Beckett, Edward Albee, and Imen Smaoui* (Tunis: AL-Ittihad Publishers, 2021).



# Dr. Max Ajl

University of Tunis, MECAM, Representative of OSAE

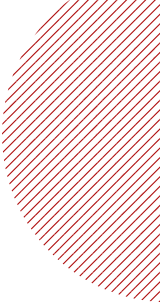

## **“Food and Land in the World-System and North Africa”**

### BIOGRAPHY NOTE:

Dr. Max Ajl is a Senior Fellow at MECAM, the Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in The Maghreb. He is affiliated with the Department of Conflict and Development Studies at Ghent University in Belgium and a researcher with the Tunisian Observatory for Food Sovereignty and the Environment. He is also an associate editor for Agrarian South and serves on the Journal of Labor and Society editorial board. Dr. Ajl's scholarly contributions span a wide array of topics, including climate politics, agrarian politics in the Arab region, and Tunisian national liberation.

Dr. Ajl's research delves into critical issues such as:

- Climate politics
- Agrarian politics in the Arab region
- Ecological planning
- Arab-North African intellectual history.



His work emphasizes the importance of food sovereignty and appropriate technology in achieving ecological justice. Dr. Ajl has contributed to numerous scholarly and popular journals, including:

- Agrarian South
- Journal of Peasant Studies
- Globalizations
- Review of African Political Economy
- Middle East Report

His writings have also appeared in mainstream outlets such as The Guardian, Boston Review, and Monthly Review, where he engages with broader audiences on pressing socio-political issues.



# Prof. Zhao Hong Han

Teachers College, Columbia University

## **“Food, Feeding and Feedback: Extending the metaphor to foreign language learning and instruction”**

### ABSTRACT

The growth of any organism requires food, feeding, and feedback, and language learners are no exception. The growth process occurs in a dynamic ecosystem composed of the environment, the organism itself, and time. Over time, their interactions lead to significant change and development. In this talk, I will extend the “food, feeding, and feedback” metaphor to the context of foreign language learning and instruction. I will start by drawing parallels between, on one hand, food, feeding, feedback, and on the other, input, scaffolding, and corrective feedback in foreign language instruction. In this analogy, ‘food’ represents the linguistic input necessary for learning, ‘feeding’ the scaffolding process of input delivery, and ‘feedback’ the responsive guidance from instructors that enhances the learning process. I will briefly unpack these concepts in foreign language instruction, highlighting strategies, including A.I. based strategies, for translating them into effective learning conditions. Following that, I will zoom out to outline the overarching goal of foreign language instruction, namely, to develop functional capacity in learners, and offer broad strategies purported to that end.

Highlighting the fact that universal processes exist alongside individual learner differences in foreign language learning, I will argue that effective foreign language instruction should facilitate these universal processes while also accommodating the unique capacities of each learner, thus maximizing both individual and collective learning outcomes.

I will conclude by returning to the dynamic ecosystem view of change and development, underscoring the need for sustaining iterative interaction between food, feeding and feedback, or in the case at hand, input, scaffolding, and tailor-made feedback.

## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Prof. ZhaoHong Han is a distinguished Professor of Language and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she also serves as the Director of the Center for International Foreign Language Teacher Education (CIFLTE). With a robust academic background, Dr. Han earned her Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from Birkbeck College, University of London, following an M.A. in TESOL from Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh, and a B.A. in English and English Literature from Central China Normal University.

Dr. Han's scholarly interests encompass a wide range of topics within applied linguistics, including:

- Second language learnability and teachability
- Crosslinguistic influence
- Task-based learning and instruction
- AI in language learning and teaching

Her research explores complex themes such as systems thinking, linguistic relativity, and the interface between research and practice in second language education.

Notably, she has published extensively on these subjects, with recent works including:

- ChatGPT in and for second language acquisition: A call for systematic research (2024) in *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*.
- Social physics and second language development (2024) in *Frontiers in Physics*.

From 2018 to 2020, Dr. Han held the position of Chair of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Teachers College.

# **Prof. Mohamed Salah Harzallah**

University of Sousse

## **“The Politics of Food Relief: Reassessing the Ideological Dynamics of Food Aid Policies”**

### **BIOGRAPHY NOTE**

Professor Mohamed Salah Harzallah is a Professor of Culture Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Sousse (Tunisia) and President of the PhD Committee of English Studies. He is equally Head of the Cultural Studies MA programme, founder of the National Erasmus+ Office of Tunisia, and External Evaluator of Capacity Building Higher Education Projects.

# **Prof. Adel Bahroun**

University of Kairouan

## **“Food and Drinks in Eugene O’Neill’s Drama”**

### **ABSTRACT**

Adel Bahroun, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of English, Former Head of the Department of English at the University of Kairouan. He is a member of the Eugene O’Neill Society. He researches and teaches modern drama, with a specialty in Eugene O’Neill. His research considers O’Neill’s plays from the ‘schizoanalytic’ perspectives established in the works of Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari. He has published in *Laconics*, *The Eugene O’Neill Review*, *Etudes Britanniques Contemporaines*, and in several journals and essay collections. He is the author of *Doom, Desire and the Polis in Eugene O’Neill’s Drama*. He is co-editor of the volume: *Proceedings of Celebration* (Kairouan, 2017) and editor of the volumes: *Proceedings of Flight* (Kairouan, 2020), *Proceedings of Flows* (Kairouan, 2023).



## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Adel Bahroun, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of English, Former Head of the Department of English at the University of Kairouan. He is a member of the Eugene O'Neill Society. He researches and teaches modern drama, with a specialty in Eugene O'Neill. His research considers O'Neill's plays from the 'schizoanalytic' perspectives established in the works of Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari. He has published in *Laconics*, *The Eugene O'Neill Review*, *Etudes Britanniques Contemporaines*, and in several journals and essay collections. He is the author of *Doom, Desire and the Polis in Eugene O'Neill's Drama*. He is co-editor of the volume: *Proceedings of Celebration* (Kairouan, 2017) and editor of the volumes: *Proceedings of Flight* (kairouan, 2020), *Proceedings of Flows* (Kairouan, 2023).



# Prof. Mounir Triki

University of Sfax

## **“Food Metaphor and Ideological Manipulation”**

### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

MOUNIR TRIKI IS A FULL PROFESSOR OF PRAGMATICS, CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS, AND CULTURAL SEMIOTICS. HE HAS NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY BOTH IN RESEARCH AND IN SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION OF DOCTORAL RESEARCH. HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OR CHAIRMAN OF VARIOUS NATIONAL RECRUITMENT COMMITTEES IN TUNISIA. HE IS CURRENTLY DIRECTOR OF THE LABORATORY ON LANGUAGE AND AUTOMATIC TREATMENT AFTER INITIALLY FOUNDING THE LABORATORY ON APPROACHES TO DISCOURSE.



*Participants*



# Fadhel Chahed

University of Sousse

## “Food and Translation”

### ABSTRACT

This research deals with gastronomy as a cultural component in Contemporary Arabic literature and the challenge it poses in translation. Foods and culinary traditions constitute major cultural markers across the Arab world, and they feature in literary prose works with varying dialectal aspects denoting regional specificity. For translators, food terminology represents a culture-bound obstacle to be handled carefully. This paper examines a number of English translations of Arabic novels and short stories to show how translators treat food-related terms in the target language.

**Keywords:** Arabic Gastronomy – translation strategies-culture

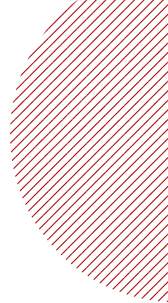

# Nourhene Mellouli

University of Ghent

## **“Food for thought: exploring the concept of feeding minds through a systemic functional linguistics lens”**

### ABSTRACT

Exploring the intricate connection between food and Linguistics unveils a fascinating tapestry constructed with terms and idioms that permeate everyday conversations in both English and Tunisian cultures. By employing the theoretical framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and bridging the realms of gastronomy and linguistics, this study embarks on a journey to decipher how language molds our relationship with food and reciprocally how food influences our language. This thesis contributes significantly to the evolution of SFL as a framework by integrating computational data collection methods, leveraging the UAM Corpus Tool version 2.8. By merging the qualitative insights provided by SFL with the precision and scalability of computational tools, this study expands the horizons of Linguistic Analysis, offering a more nuanced understanding of the intricate relationship between language and food. Through a corpus analysis of Tunisian and English idioms, this research uncovers the specific linguistic instances that underpin the interactions between language and food within this cultural context, shedding light on the subtle, and not so subtle, ways in which language mediates our experiences with food and vice-versa.





This investigation serves as a catalyst for fostering interdisciplinary conversations regarding how language intertwines with our engagement with food and feeding rituals. This research aims to stimulate a holistic understanding of how language intricately weaves itself into different culinary encounters. This study illuminates the ways in which language serves as a medium for expressing cultural values, social norms, and personal identities through food by deciphering the linguistic codes embedded within food-related discourse.

**Keywords:** Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), Computational data collection methods, Language and food, Personal identities, English and Tunisian idioms

#### BIOGRAPHY NOTE



Nourhene Mellouli is an Advanced Master of Arts student specializing in Computational and Mathematical Linguistics at Ghent University. With a Bachelor of Arts in English Language, Literature, and Civilization, and a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics, she strives to combine her passion for language with a strong analytical and critical foundation. Focused on exploring the intersection of language, computation, and mathematics, she aims to contribute to the advancement of Computational Linguistics through innovative research and practical applications







# Rakia Ghozzi

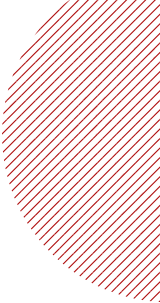

University of Carthage

## **“Investigating food-related conceptual metaphors: a cross-cultural account”**

### ABSTRACT

A strand of fundamental work in cognitive linguistics is the considerable development of Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT), pioneered by Lakoff and Johnson (1980). This lineResearch emphasizes that metaphor is not merely a rhetorical and linguistic device; rather, it is pervasive in everyday life and basic for human cognition (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980, 1999; Lakoff ; Turner, 1989). For instance, conceptual metaphors are “mental devices” that enable us to think and communicate about abstract conceptual domains in terms of concrete conceptual domains (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). This implies that our sensorimotor experiences and concrete concepts (source domains) play a crucial role in shaping our understanding of abstract concepts (target domains). Among the different types of conceptual metaphors, food-related conceptual metaphors offer a rich ground for academic research, revealing how human cognition is structured through physical experiences. First, this paper investigates the role of food metaphors in shaping our understanding of abstract ideas, within the framework of (CMT).





Expressions like “chewing over an idea”, “sweet success”, or “biting off more than you can chew”; highlight how food metaphors permeate our language and thinking, allowing us to conceptualize intangible concepts in terms of sensory, physical experiences. Next, this paper will investigate whether food-related metaphors are universal or culture -specific. By doing so, we gain insights into how these metaphors not only shape individual understanding but also reflect specific cultural identities.



# Dr. Byrant Scott

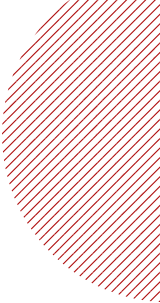

Texas A&M University at Qatar

## **“Archives of bodily dispossession: memory, consumption and the reclaiming of the dismembered past in Adania Shibli’s Minor Detail”**

### ABSTRACT

Adania Shibli's *Minor Detail* intersects with food studies by foregrounding the themes of consumption, bodily sovereignty, and power. The novel reflects broader socio-political structures of domination through symbolic acts of deprivation, bodily sovereignty, and control. Like the intentional removal of history and culture from the landscape, food has played a central role in the cultural erasure, ethnic cleansing, and genocide of the Palestinian people. This is illustrated allegorically when the soldiers decide to use a captured Palestinian girl for kitchen labor or further gendered bodily violence. These moments in the novel reflect the politics of consumption and cultural occupation, where feeding and labor, or their denial, become instruments of control and occupation, resonating with broader questions of sovereignty and order. The narrative also uses metaphors of contamination and purity, with recurring references to dust and petrol evoking decay, oppression, and control. These metaphors align with the symbolic dimensions of food, where the politics of what is consumed, withheld, or shared shape methods of control.

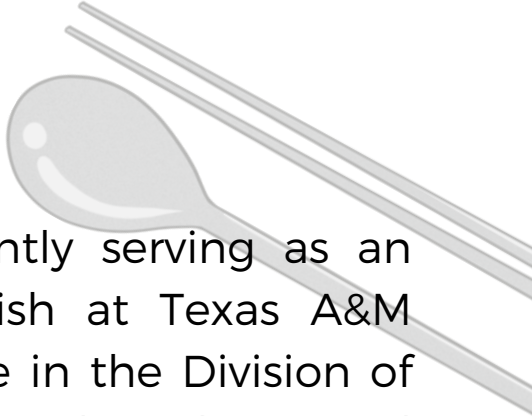





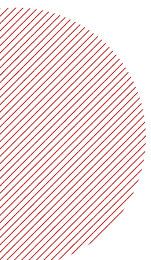
The soldiers' decisions mirror the way control over resources and bodily sovereignty becomes part of a larger genocidal project, drawing parallels between occupation, sovereignty, and food. In ways that parallel Kyla Tompkins' observations in her seminal work *Racial Indigestion*, *Minor Detail* shows how acts of consumption—literal and symbolic—served to shape social hierarchies, with consumption becoming a tool to construct racial and class identities.

Shibli's novel focuses on how notions of racialization, purity, consumption, and spaces (geopolitical and bodily) offer insight into the subtler affective forms of colonial violence and erasure.

#### BIOGRAPHY NOTE



He is an accomplished academic currently serving as an Instructional Assistant Professor of English at Texas A&M University at Qatar. He plays a pivotal role in the Division of Arts and Sciences, where he contributes to the educational development of students through innovative teaching and curriculum design.





# Dr. Mourad Romdhani

University of Sousse

## **“Taste of Defiance: Culinary Identity in William Faulkner’s *Intruder in the Dust* and the Palestinian Context”**

### ABSTRACT

Generally approached as a source of sustenance, food can transcend its basic function, evolving into a powerful nonverbal idiom articulating identity, resilience, and cultural continuity. This concept is vividly illustrated in William Faulkner’s *Intruder in the Dust* (1948), through the character of Lucas Beauchamp, whose culinary practices serve as a profound expression of his identity and resistance against white marginalization. Similarly, for the Palestinian people, food becomes a vital emblem of cultural heritage and defiance in the face of colonial oppression. By employing postcolonial theories, this article examines how food operates as a medium of expression that captures the complexities of identity, community, and survival amidst the forces of erasure and alienation. Through a comparative analysis of Lucas’s relationship with food and that of the Palestinian colonized people, the essay unveils the intricate ways in which culinary practices serve not merely as acts of nutrition but as profound statements of existence, resilience, and assertion of identity.



## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Mourad Romdhani is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Letters and Humanities, University of Sousse, Tunisia. He holds a Ph.D degree in English literature. His fields of interest are American literature, Faulkner studies, and literary theories. His most recent article is “Cross-dressing and Symbolic Transgender Disguise in William Faulkner’s Yoknapatawpha: Queer (Fe)male Identity.” The Faulkner Journal, vol. 34 no. 2,



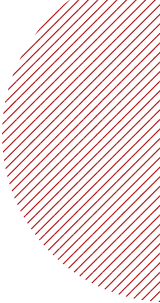

# Ameni Mabrouk

University of Sousse

## **“Tasting identities: food, culture, and memory in the Hundred-Foot journey (2014)”**

### ABSTRACT

Food is a predetermining element for survival yet its role in shaping cultural identity and memory is often overlooked, despite its significance in reflecting both cultural resistance and hybridity. Drawing on Postcolonial theories, specifically Homi Bhabha's concept of cultural hybridity and Frantz Fanon's exploration of cultural resistance and identity, this paper analyzes the representation of food and cooking traditions in *The Hundred-Foot Journey* (2014), a film adaptation of Richard C. Morais' novel. By incorporating anthropological studies of food and its relation to identity and memory, this study explores how culinary traditions in both Indian and French cuisines shape the identities of the colonizer and the colonized, and how they contribute to the construction of memory. Restaurants are shown in the movie as metaphorical battlegrounds where French and Indian culinary customs collide, signifying a larger conflict over identity. The findings reveal that food traditions and rituals are not mere practices to achieve culinary pleasure, but cultural constructs that actively shape identity and forge memories.



The main conclusion is that food, in its dual role of resistance and hybridity, is central to the negotiation of cultural identities in postcolonial contexts.

**Keywords:** food, ethnic identity, Memory, Postcolonial studies, cultural hybridity, resistance

#### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

MA student at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sousse.



# Oumeima Bousrih

University of Sousse

## **“Flavors of the past: a narratological exploration of food and identity in Sahar Khalifeh’s My First and Only Love”**

### ABSTRACT

Food has long played a significant role in literature as a powerful tool that can give emphasis to and reflect key cultural elements in fictional works. Several authors, with different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, employ the theme of food to evoke a number of ideas and concepts at the heart of their own identity. Among these authors, we can mention Palestinian writers who make use of this narrative element to explore other themes in direct connection with identity, resistance, memory, survival, and land preservation. For these authors, food can be seen as a symbol of Palestinian survival and cultural perseverance. It evokes an unbreakable connection with their historical and cultural heritages. In Sahar Khalifeh’s 2010 novel *My First and Only Love*, the author intricately blends together food and its cultural and historical significance as part and parcel of her narrative fabric. The novel follows the story of Nidal, a Palestinian refugee as she returns back to her family’s old house in their Palestinian hometown and reminisces on her childhood memories there. In fact, the narrative includes passages and conversations about Palestinian dishes.

The thrust of this paper is to examine the way Khalifeh's text focuses on how food serves as a narrative device to underscore the protagonist's personal and communal journeys using a contemporary narratological approach. This reading sheds light on the narrative structure of the novel where food is set as a symbol for Palestinian memory and identity.

**Keywords:** cultural perseverance, food, identity, memory, narratology, survival.

#### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Oumeima Bousrih is a Ph.D. candidate from the English Department at the Faculty of Literature, Arts and Humanities of Manouba, Tunisia. The focus of her thesis is on American Literature. Her field of research focuses on Trauma Studies in the writings of female Indigenous authors. Her most recent researches, including her Master's degree, address themes of storytelling and colonial trauma in the works of Native American female author Leslie Marmon Silko. Her current research is interested in themes such as identity crisis, trauma of displacement, and historical trauma in the works of fiction of Chippewa female writer Louise Erdrich. She is also interested in the study of literary works written by Indigenous women authors and in investigating their way of shaping subjectivities into fullfledged narratives.

# Haithem Gasmi

University of Ghent

## **“Choking on a bad seed: Tunisia’s dependent food regime”**

### ABSTRACT

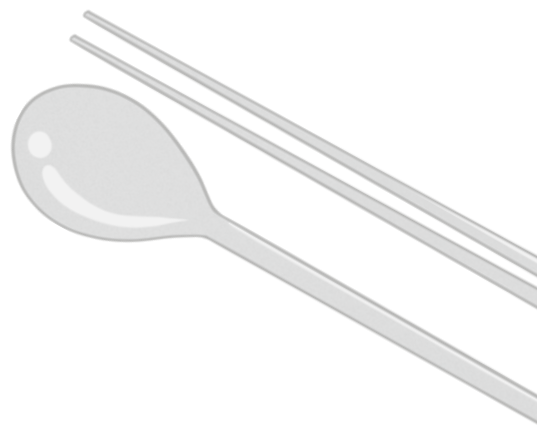
During the 1967-1968 agricultural season, the Tunisian government imported varieties of Mexican soft wheat developed by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). The sowing of these Mexican seeds in Tunisian fields marked the beginning of the implementation of the Green Revolution in the newly independent nation. This experimentation occurred during the height of the cooperativist movement led by the Socialist Party. The introduction of imported seeds contributed to a significant shift in the agricultural mode of production in Tunisia, further consolidating the country’s position within the global economic system. Additionally, the dependency on imported seeds has influenced the population’s diet by increasing reliance on soft wheat for flour production, which constitutes an important component of food staples. This paper investigates the effects of agricultural policies on dietary patterns. It traces the historical development of dependency on the international market for agricultural inputs and discusses alternative paths for agricultural development proposed by small-scale producers, political activists, and engaged scholars.





## BIOGRAPHY NOTE:

Haithem GASMI, PhD candidate at the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of Ghent University, Belgium. Associated researcher with the Tunisian Observatory of Food Sovereignty and the Environment (OSAE). Associate Editor at the Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy. Contributor at Inhiyez.com and Nawaat.org.





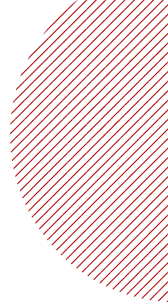

# Aymen Amayed

Researcher and Director of OSAE

## **“Local Knowledge, Local Seeds: a way to tackle food insecurity”**

### ABSTRACT


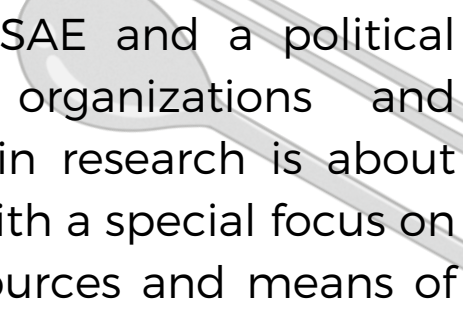
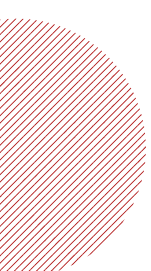
During the colonial era, the French colonizers focused on the dispossession of the agricultural means of production. Land dispossession was obviously the first step for agrarian colonization and as any other empire the French pushed towards a capitalistic way of production. The Hybridization of seeds was part of the different processes used to implement this type of agriculture. Backed by the agricultural research which was key to developing new hybrid seeds, these crossings gave birth to many new hybrids that were used in the country to “feed” the core and the international market. In parallel the hybrids introduction produced the need for more arable land, water resources and agricultural input so in other words more dispossession. After colonization, similar patterns of dispossession transformed into more subtle processes that created more dependency of the Global South to the north. In the following years hybrid seeds took a significant place as a key component of capitalistic agriculture and for controlling the global south agricultural production. In Tunisia many movements (especially after the 2011 uprising) were pushing towards regaining the local seed use and the local knowledge that were lost due to the introduction of hybrids.



Their claims are animated by two different motives : Delinking with the north and cutting the dependency and two regaining this knowledge to resist climate change in our country. How different actors and especially small scale farmers are fostering this process and which state responses and policies in this context are being followed is the focus of this paper.

**Keywords:** local knowledge, seeds, food, sovereignty, food security

#### BIOGRAPHY NOTE:



Tunisian agronomist researcher at OSAE and a political activist, engaged with multiple organizations and grassroots social movements. His main research is about environmental and ecological issues with a special focus on food sovereignty, equal access to resources and means of production, peasant rights, and climate and social justice in Tunisia and North Africa.

# Dr. Hatem Sbei

University of Jendouba

## **“Extractivism and resistance in Tunisia: a new trajectory of class struggle?”**

### ABSTRACT

During the last decade the question of energy transfer and decarbonization has been regarded as a highly contested issue. An official discourse has embraced a technocratic vision to investment in green energy presenting these projects as beneficial to the economic boom, which aligns with European plan to diversify energy supplies as a response to climate change and mainly after the Ukraine war. However, civil society activists and some political parties have resisted those extractive activities and projects because they think that they reproduce patterns of global injustice, exclude local communities from the decision-making and mainly commodify nature and privatize sources (Hamouchene, 2019). These groups call for justice, democracy and nationalization of these energy projects. Such divergence in attitudes towards energy transfer issues highlight the complexity of balancing economic, social and environmental factors in creating a fair distribution of resources between the European countries and Tunisia. This paper seeks to employ a blended methodology integrating content analysis with interviews to unpack the question of energy transition and highlight the diversity of attitudes and the need for involving the civil society and political parties. It approaches the phenomenon from a global South perspective to deconstruct the dominant narrative propagated by policymakers and the multinational companies and unveil global inequalities and the unjust distribution of natural resources.

**Keywords:** extractivism, energy transfer, resistance, privatization


# Costanza Pizzo

University of Palermo

## **“Oases in Tunisia: food sovereignty under threat- global challenges, climate change and local Fellahin resistance”**

### ABSTRACT

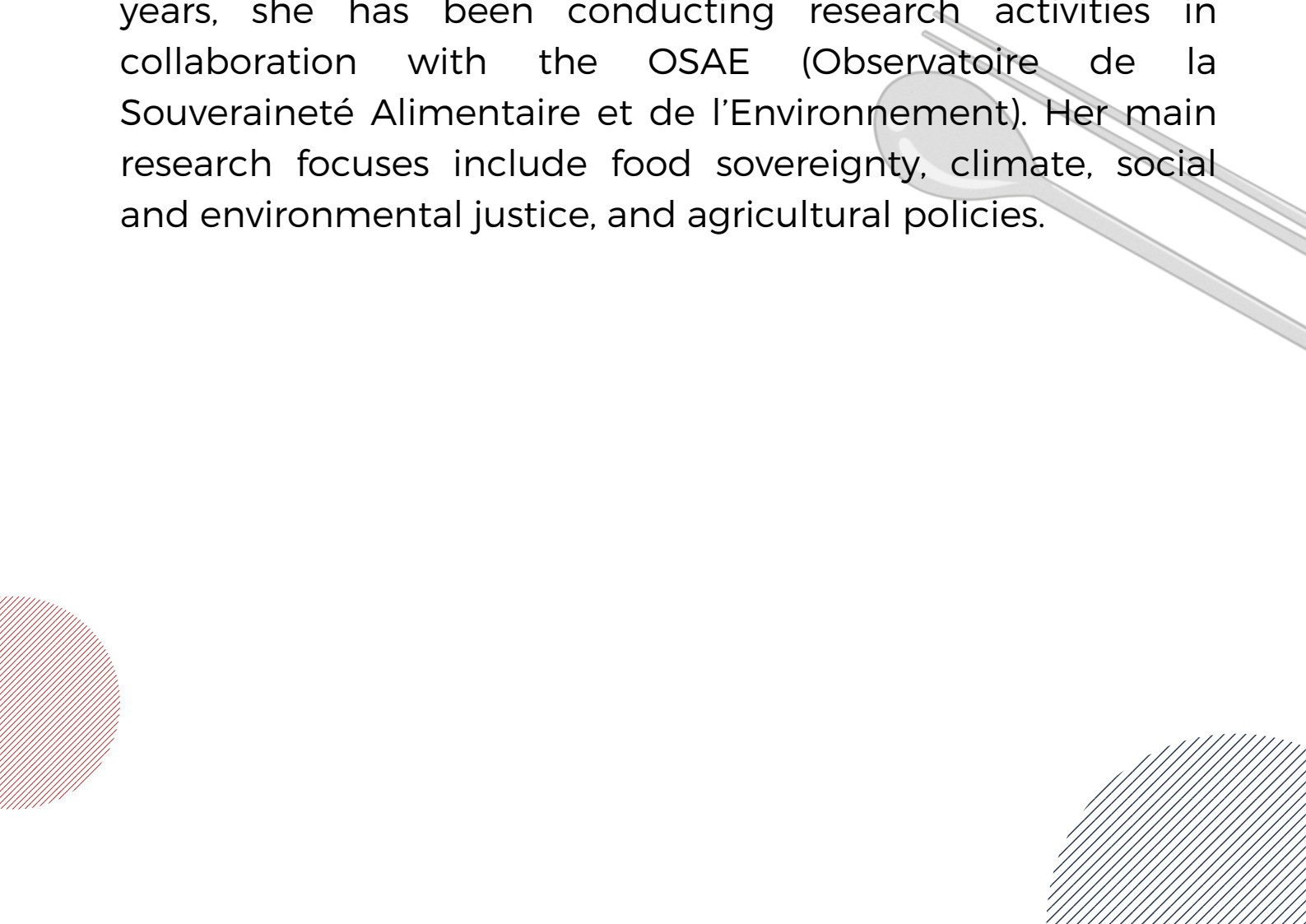
With the rise of neoliberal development policies and the modernization drive pursued during the Green Revolution, Tunisia's agricultural system has undergone a profound transformation. The relationship between farmers, nature, and food production has been compromised and shifted towards an industrial orientation. Moreover, these changes are closely interconnected with another global phenomenon, namely the advancing risks associated with climate change, which are already altering agricultural production and disproportionately affecting rural communities and traditional ecosystems such as those found in the oases. Specifically, the interplay between agro-industrial and water policies and the risks related to climate change—such as decreased and increasingly irregular rainfall, rising temperatures, and prolonged drought periods—has dramatically impacted and reshaped the Oases territory and production. However, despite these challenges posed by the interconnectedness of the issues mentioned above and the consequent effects on land and agricultural work, the Oases systems have always represented poles and examples of resistance, through the propagation and preservation of their local knowledge and the importance of social capital. This paper aims to explore and document the balance of oasis ecosystems and the agriculture of its fellahin, highlighting current challenges and their impacts on the ground and food production.



Additionally, it will seek to demonstrate how, by drawing on local knowledge, social capital, and traditional practices, oasis farmers have demonstrated their ability to adapt and resist in the face of adversity. This resistance serves as a testament to the importance of preserving and supporting traditional agricultural systems, not only for their ecological value but also for their role in sustaining rural livelihoods and communities, and ensuring food security.

### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

PhD student at the University of Palermo in the program “Migration, Differences, Social Justice”. Over the past three years, she has been conducting research activities in collaboration with the OSAE (Observatoire de la Souveraineté Alimentaire et de l’Environnement). Her main research focuses include food sovereignty, climate, social and environmental justice, and agricultural policies.



# Hanen Dab

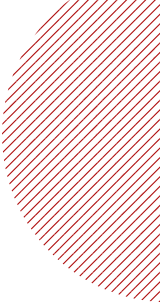

University of Gabes

## **“Food and agriculture: Gabes a case study”**

### ABSTRACT

Exploring both their benefits and challenges, agriculture and food coordinate to ensure diverse cropping systems, access to markets, emerging technology, high quality, healthy food and sustainability. Agriculture includes the ranches and farms responsible for producing crops and livestock products which provide inputs to the food and fiber sector. Farmers are the backbone of ensuring fresh fruits and vegetables on our shelves. Agricultural policies and programmes also contribute to the extraordinary increase of productive farming. Chile, for example, is the pioneer of fruit growers and exporters in the southern hemisphere most notably on grapes thanks to the direct impact of policy decisions. Besides, a shift towards quality is a holistic sustainable way for the agriculture and public health nutrition. China 's strong policy consists of improving quality over quantity to ensure absolute security of staple food like rice and wheat for economic stability. Practically, using fertilizers like selenium, iodine and zinc, added to soils to provide the nutrients, are adapted to have healthy plant growth. Urban areas still face obstacles of access due to limited infrastructure, limiting food distribution. Biodiversity is at an alarming rate because climate change has placed additional pressures. Population growth and soil degradation are other significant challenges.


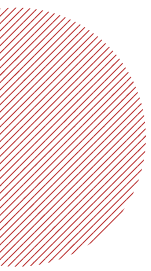
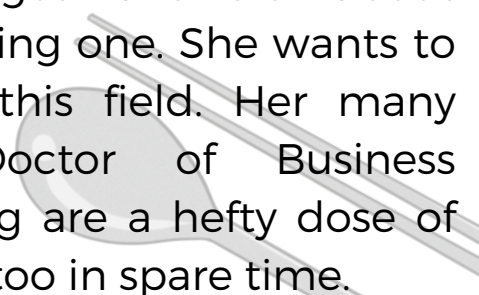




Thus, the amalgamation of AI tools, the latest of man's ingenuity, like smart spraying, IoT-powered irrigation drones and other tech-driven solutions reflect the commitment to a friendly environment. In brief, empowering farmers with better access to technology, financial resources and fair market opportunities could shift the scales.

### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

-A research student from ISL Gabes, Hanene Dab is from Tataouine. She is currently living in Gabes. Hanene developed a keen interest in the field of linguistics. Her research helps to figure out ways to stop unemployment. She has done research in Agriculture in Gabes trying to get answers about entrepreneurship in this sector as an alluring one. She wants to help young graduates cope better in this field. Her many interests are accomplishing her Doctor of Business Administration (DBA). Clubs and Traveling are a hefty dose of positivity for her. She loves interior design too in spare time.



# Yasmine Bondi

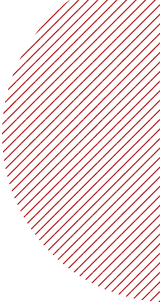

University of Sousse

## **“Feeding the Self, Tasting the Other: A Lacanian Analysis of Identify Construction in Hannibal”**

### ABSTRACT

In the TV series Hannibal (2013-2015), cannibalism ascends the sadistic act of consuming human flesh to present a deeper form of emotional and psychological consumption. Hannibal Lecter (Mads Mikkelsen) uses food and the act of feeding as a form of self-expression and identification, and a tool to exert power, control, and intimacy over Will Graham (Hugh Dancy). Lecter's relationship with food deconstructs conventional notions of masculinity, while his relationship with Graham challenges the traditional boundaries of identity and sexuality. Lecter's ceremonial handling of food becomes a weapon for claiming control over Graham, whose identity and psyche crumble gradually under Dr. Lecter's psychiatric care and influence. As the latter has a sophisticated facade that masks his fragmented and unethical psyche, Graham's moral integrity deteriorates, blurring the lines between predator and prey, victim and accomplice, subject and object. Cannibalism is, therefore, portrayed as an expression of identity and psychological intimacy, with food symbolizing seduction and desire, and the act of feeding representing power and domination. The TV series challenges conventional social dynamics and revises ethical boundaries by focusing on the grotesque acts of food consumption.





By referring to Freud's psychoanalysis, and incorporating the posthuman theory, this article aims to analyze Hannibal Lecter's identity construction through the act of feeding on people, and how cannibalism becomes a tool to manipulate Will Graham's psyche. Analyzing this unorthodox practice provides a redefinition of identity, desire, and power through food and feeding, offering a fresh insight into contemporary narratives' representation of fragmented identities.

Keywords: food, feeding, cannibalism, identity, psychoanalysis, posthumanism.

#### BIOGRAPHY NOTE:

MA Student at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sousse



# Sarra Boughanmi

University of Sousse

## **“Mad gods: an intermedial study of Cormac McCarthy’s Blood Meridian symbolized through Francisco Goya’s painting ‘Saturn Devouring His Son’”**

### ABSTRACT

Francisco Goya’s painting “Saturn Devouring His Son” depicts a horrific image of a mad god eating his own child. The symbolism within this act of devouring has been studied by countless scholars as the embodiment of the hunger for power and the brutal corruption it brings. This terrifying image is echoed in numerous works of fiction, such as Blood Meridian by Cormac McCarthy. Both the novel and the painting share similar themes of cosmic horror and corruption allowing for an approach through intermediality and visual culture. This research focuses on analysing the character of the judge as a Saturn-like figure with an insatiable hunger for power, drawing on Irina Rajewsky’s definition of intermediality as well as W.J.T. Mitchell’s theory of image-text relations. By underlining the symbolic parallels between Judge Holden and Saturn this paper aims to provide a new lens through which McCarthy’s work is to be studied, therefore, expanding its meaning and adding to its interpretations.

**Keywords:** Blood Meridian, comparative analysis, hunger for power, intermediality, judge Holden, Saturn, visual culture.

### BIOGRAPHY NOTE:

MA Student at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sousse

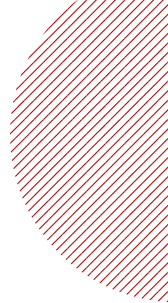

# Vivienne Tailor

University of California

## **“From Metaphorical to literal Cannibalism and all the meals in between cannibalism, hunger, and healing in the novels of Toni Morrison”**

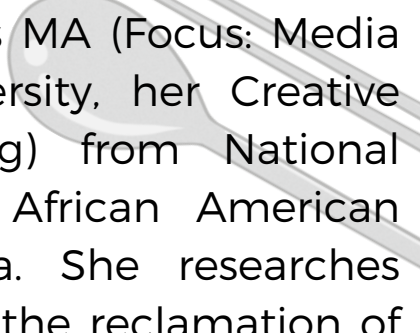
### ABSTRACT

In Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, the female protagonist Sethe feels drained of her blood and milk by her ghostly daughter—yet the matriarch needs no teaspoons or measuring cups to create her nourishing biscuits. In *The Bluest Eye*, buying a simple candy becomes a racist interaction, as the clerk avoids touching the black girl's hand when she pays. However, Morrison counters this negativity by the mother baking biscuits into oval symbols of innocence. In *Song of Solomon*, white fudge becomes a traumatic memory when a white woman presents it to a black child after his father dies in a factory accident. Again, Morrison does not allow food to remain a source of pain—the author includes in her novel advice on making sunshine cakes resplendent with yolky richness. Throughout Morrison's fiction, she uses food as tangible semiotics of the race-based weaponization of food juxtaposed with African American communal healing through food reclamation. The author addresses the slavery and colonial accusation towards non-European persons as savage and cannibalistic by returning the accusation towards perpetrators of those brutal and hellish institutions. Morrison threads food motifs in her narratives to convey themes of hunger, consumption, and cruelty as characters attempt to poison and destroy each other or nourish and fortify one another to re/claim their individual and communal agency.





This research combines the counterhegemonic “cannibalism as discourse” with Frantz Fanon’s *The Wretched of the Earth* and *Black Skin, White Masks* to contemplate how Morrison embeds food as a political battleground of domination, denial, and trauma countered by love, sharing, and healing. The author elevates food beyond physical nutrition to ideas of racism-induced malnutrition within African American emotional and spiritual life. Her black characters often must navigate exploitive white relationships while simultaneously navigating their community relationships in their personal journeys of rebellion, redemption, and revival.

### BIOGRAPHY NOTE



Vivienne Tailor earned her Cultural Studies MA (Focus: Media Studies) from Claremont Graduate University, her Creative Writing MFA (Focus: Screenplay Writing) from National University, and her English BA (Focus: African American Studies) from the University of Georgia. She researches dictatorships, healing trauma through Art, the reclamation of historical memory, and re/creation of individual and national identities. Vivienne is co-editing a film studies volume titled *The Infinite Lenses of Trinh T. Minh-ha* (Edinburgh University Press) and developing two monographs: *An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Cannibalism Through the Ages: Accusations and Rebuttals* (Lexington) and *Gender Identities, World Film, and Transitional Justice* (Brill).



# Bassem Hidouri

## University of Gafsa

### Teaching Soft Skills: Feeding Students and Students' Feedback

#### ABSTRACT

In the recent years, and in an attempt to help Tunisian universities' students gain and enhance interpersonal skills, it was suggested to make of Soft Skills a subject that has to be taught at least at the English departments. Although it is early, arguably, to assess the success of the suggestion, it is possible to share some points related to teaching Soft Skills departing from a 5-year personal experience. This paper endeavours to back up the idea of adding Soft Skills to the curriculum through showing the way(s) the teacher respond to the learner's needs and hunger for such skills, and through reporting the students' feedback while and after attending the classes. Additionally, the paper suggests tips in order to make the subject fit better what the student expects to acquire and to improve. The tips are the fruit of a minute observation of the courses.

Finally, the researcher is a certified Soft Skills trainer. Thus, he finds it a great opportunity to tell, through this paper, about what needs to be improved or revised starting from a comparison between teaching and training. This includes classrooms, assessment, timing...

To sum up, the paper may potentially serve as a guide for change and improvement as it will additionally include Soft Skills teachers' ideas about the subject by reporting their answers to a related questionnaire.

**Key words:** Soft Skills/ feedback/ Students / teachers/ classes / teaching

# Mansour Henchiri

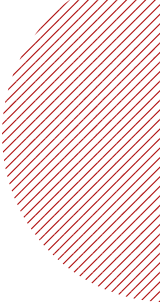

University of Gafsa

## Food, Feeding and feedback in education: A Critical Examination

### ABSTRACT

The integration of food, feeding, and feedback in education plays a pivotal role in enhancing student outcomes. School feeding programs, which provide nutritious meals to students, have been shown to significantly improve both educational and health outcomes. These programs address hunger and malnutrition, which are critical barriers to learning, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. By ensuring that students receive adequate nutrition, school feeding programs help improve cognitive function, increase school attendance, and reduce dropout rates. Moreover, the concept of “feeding” extends beyond physical nourishment to include the provision of a supportive learning environment. This involves creating a classroom atmosphere where students feel safe, valued, and motivated to learn. Effective feedback mechanisms are essential in this context, as they provide students with the information needed to improve their performance. Constructive feedback helps students understand their strengths and areas for improvement, fostering a growth mindset and encouraging continuous learning. The synergy between food, feeding, and feedback creates a holistic approach to education that addresses both the physical and psychological needs of students.


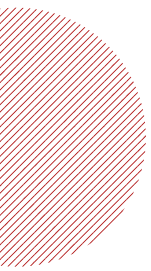




By combining nutritional support with a nurturing educational environment and effective feedback, schools can enhance student engagement, academic achievement, and overall well-being. This integrated approach is crucial for developing resilient, well-rounded individuals who are equipped to succeed in their educational journeys and beyond.

**Keywords:** Students' needs, Growth, Nurture, Constructive Feedback, Academic Achievement, Support and Provision.

### BIOGRAPHY NOTE



Mansour HENCHIRI is a Tunisian PhD Candidate in “Applied linguistics” at the higher institution of languages in Tunis ISLT. He is currently writing his PhD thesis under the supervision of Pr. Mounir Triki, while teaching at the faculty of science in Gafsa. Mr. HENCHIRI’s research interests are: perceptions and their influence on practices, educational policies, ICT impact on academic performance, Collaborative learner autonomy, learners’ attitudes at higher institutions, critical thinking and promoting learner autonomy and lifelong learning.

# Sabrina Hallem

## **“Feeding Oral Corrective Feedback”: Exploring Tunisian EFL Learners’ CF Beliefs and Recurrence of Use of CF Moves (Input-providing vs. Output-pushing)**

### ABSTRACT

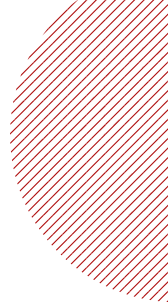

Learning a foreign language (FLL) is a complex process that involves numerous factors affecting not only the learning outcome but also the journey of learning itself. Indeed, on their road of learning a new language, learners are expected to make errors in using the target language and, as part of the process, they receive corrective feedback (CF) on their performance. The main aim is to correct the erroneous use of language and promote accuracy. In delivering and receiving CF, learners’ beliefs differ from one to another. While some learners prefer to overtly be corrected (input- providing CF), others wish to be prompted to correct the errors (output-pushing). This study seeks to reach a better understanding of this construct (CF) in relation to the agents involved; teachers and learners. It uses Sheen and Ellis (2011) established model of CF as a framework to investigate the most recurrent types of CF as used by First Year Licence students of French studying English as a foreign language and their perceptions of each CF move type. To meet this end, this study employs a questionnaire and a focus group as data collection tools.



## Feedback processes for curriculum evaluations

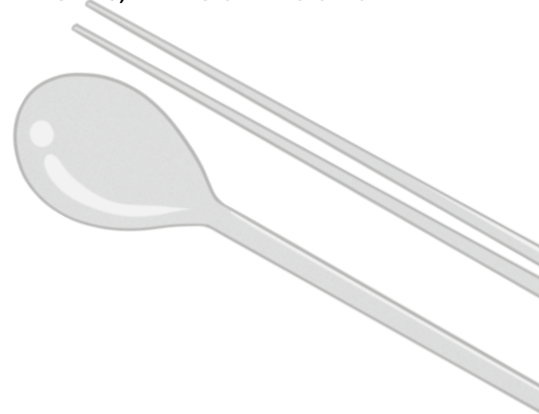
### ABSTRACT

Feedback on curriculum effectiveness and the achievement of learning objectives is essential for both the evaluation and continuous improvement of educational programs using critical inquiry through approaches. According to prior research and academic literature, curriculum evaluation serves numerous purposes such as identifying educational needs, allocating resources, designing and refining curricula, developing teaching materials, clarifying educational values, enhancing instructional delivery, demonstrating outcomes, raising awareness, and ultimately transforming the experiences of all stakeholders. Different approaches to program evaluation prioritize distinct goals. Richards and Rodgers (2001) and Norris (2016) highlight two fundamental purposes: program accountability and program development. Program accountability assesses the program's impact, typically for external stakeholders such as accreditation agencies, focusing on the results achieved at a specific stage of the educational experience. Program development, on the other hand, emphasizes the ongoing improvement of the program during its implementation, aiming to enhance its effectiveness as it evolves (Richards & Rodgers, 2001). Over the past two decades, curriculum and syllabus evaluations have undergone significant changes compared to the previous fifty years, largely due to increased pressure and evolving expectations.



The growing demands of stakeholders and the increased focus on quality assurance and accreditation in Higher Education have necessitated the development of comprehensive taxonomies that capture the key features and requirements of modern education (Iswati & Hastuti, 2021; Vidakovic et al., 2022). These evolving approaches aim to address the educational needs of a globalized era, taking into account technological advancements and shifting global dynamics. In this presentation, different approaches to language programme evaluations are explored, focusing on the differences and advantages of each approach.

**Keywords:** Program evaluation, program accountability, educational values, program development, curriculum effectiveness



# Yassine Najjar

University of Gabes


## Food or the Art of Social (Dis)Connection in Han Kang's *The Vegetarian*

### ABSTRACT

This paper explores the symbolic function of food in Han Kang's *The Vegetarian*, examining how Yeong-hye, the major character, decides to stop eating meat as a subversive act against patriarchal authority. The presentation focuses on how vegetarianism operates as a form of rebellion, challenging societal norms related to gender, power, and conformity in traditional South Korean culture. The study aims to investigate how food becomes both a means of social connection and disconnection, reflecting deeper cultural and personal identity constructions.

The present work investigates the intersection of food, narrative structures, and power dynamics within patriarchal societies. In South Korean culture, meat consumption is often associated with strength and dominance, particularly within male-dominated structures. Yeong-hye's refusal to consume meat disrupts these norms, symbolizing her rejection of the gender roles imposed on her. Thus, the paper uncovers the ways in which dietary choices can serve as resistance.

The paper foregrounds vegetarianism as a form of personal liberation, challenging patriarchal structures and asserting autonomy. However, this rebellion comes at a significant cost. The exclusion of Yeong-hye's voice throughout much of the novel is critical to understanding her isolation.



The three-part structure marginalizes her perspective, as the narrative is largely mediated by others' voices to reinforce societal perspectives at the expense of her personal experience. The Vegetarian succeeds in foregrounding how food intersects with issues of power, control, and identity, while its narrative structure deepens Yeong-hye's marginalization and highlights the complex relationship between personal freedom and societal estrangement.

#### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Yassine Najjar is an associate professor at the Higher Institute of Languages, Gabes, Tunisia. He is also the director of studies. Dr. Najjar is also the executive director of TAEELS: the Tunisian Association for English Studies, which has been organizing a number of international conferences dealing with a good number of topics in humanities and social sciences, attended by important scholars such as Gayatri Spivak and Gae Stratton. He holds a PhD in English literature. He has been publishing in a number of renowned journals. He is also the editor of *The Dynamics of Resistance and Discontent*.





# **Maisa Chetoui**

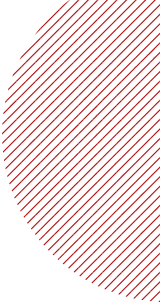

University of Sfax

## **Politics and Poetics of Meat as a Food Motif in My Year of Meats (1998) by Ruth Ozeki**

### **ABSTRACT**

Asian American literary works are dominantly criticized as different to the Western canon and unauthentic to the Asian American experience. Yet, other readings like Food Studies can be applied to this type of writing. In the selected work which is *My Year of Meats*(1998), written by the Japanese American author Ruth Ozeki, the character and characterization of female characters mainly Jane Takagi-Little and Akiko Ueno delineate the gendered and cultural symbolism of food in the novel and how it shapes the construction of Asian American female subjectivity. Hinged on the theories of body, food and gender politics by Susan Bordo, the present paper aims to scrutinize *My Year of Meats* in order to identify not just the politics of food and how it is represented, but also, to examine its poetic textual dimensions. In fact, Ruth Ozeki, as a Japanese American female writer employs food as a trope to interpret the intersections of gender and culture in the foundation of Asian American female identity. Meat, particularly, is not just about nourishment; it is deployed as a device to define gender roles, power dynamics and cultural identity, especially for Asian American women whose lives are shaped by social patriarchal expectations concerning their body image, fertility, and domesticity.

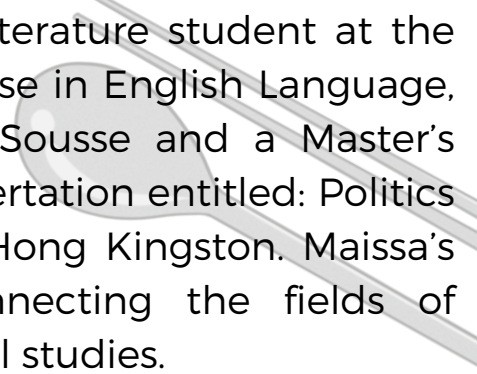





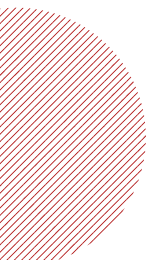
This exploration of the socio-political, cultural, and gendered implications of food in relation to Asian American female identity serves to a deeper understanding of the social, historical and cultural context of *My Year of Meats* and to the expansion of its literary critical debate.

**Keywords:** Food, Politics, Asian American Identity, Poetics, Gender Roles, Meat.

### BIOGRAPHY NOTE



Maissa Chetoui is currently a 2nd year PhD. Literature student at the FLSH of Sfax. She holds the Fundamental License in English Language, Literature and Civilization from the FLSH of Sousse and a Master's Degree in English Literature in 2021 for her dissertation entitled: *Politics of Gender in The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston. Maissa's academic interests are interdisciplinary, connecting the fields of Chinese American literature, gender and cultural studies.








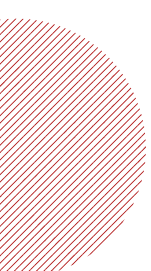
# Hela Laadhari

University of Sousse

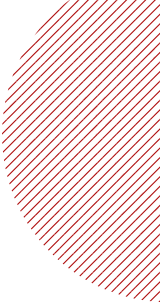

## **“Food as an Expression of Care and Intimacy in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s Works: A Reader Response Perspective”**

### ABSTRACT

Food as an essential part of human lives can transcend the physical need of the body for sustenance and survival to that of expressing meanings related to relationships and cultures. In this paper, food, and culinary images are seen as characterization devices that describe the complex relationships between different characters. Food sharing, feeding and feedback during mealtime have become tools for measuring the closeness or remoteness between characters. This paper focuses on these aspects in the works of the Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie through the lenses of reader-response theory, particularly Wolfgang Iser’s *The Act of Reading: A Theory of Aesthetic Response*. This paper focuses on the relationship between three pairs: Papa and Mama in *Purple Hibiscus*, Olanna and Odenigbo in *Half of a Yellow Sun* and Ifemelu and Obinze in *Americanah*. The paper also compares these pairs and their expression of intimacy through food with other characters in each book. The richness of Nigerian cuisine and its cultural specificity add to the richness of the reading experience: the readers of Adichie are engaged in a unique relationship with the text, deciphering the connection between characters through their relation with food as an interpretation of characters relationship.

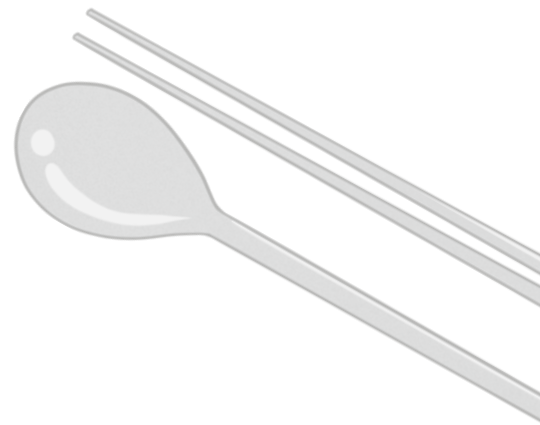






The reader's repertoire, imagination, gap-filling and expectations are exploited in this process of meaning construction. The reader's repertoire, imagination, gap-filling and expectations are exploited in this process of meaning construction. This paper concludes that food is used in Adichie as an interactive symbol to shape the reader's interpretation of romantic intimacy and relationships of care. The cultural context shapes the reader's understanding and makes him reconsider the often overlooked images of food.

**Keywords:** Reader Response, Food and Culinary images, Characterization, Adichie, Intimacy.



# Dr. Khaled Rjiba & Asma Azza Dridi

University of Sousse

## Feeding Crowds Minds in George Orwell's 1984 and Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451

### ABSTRACT

Food, feeding and political feedback in George Orwell's 1984 and Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 is a central polemical issue on which little research is conducted. This paper, then, attempts to negotiate the very theme, with a special focus on feeding as ideological input which shapes the crowds' minds and fulfils short and long term "voluntary servitude" (De la Boetie), depoliticization and conformity. The systemic process of indoctrination often culminates in what Walter Lippmann call "group mind" or what Gustave le Bon calls "the popular mind". The study is inspired different theories of mind feeding, namely Steven Alan "BITE model of authoritarian control", perceptual control theory, stimulus response theory, Althusser's concept of 'State Apparatuses', Baudrillard's notion of 'Simulacra and Simulacrum' and Gramsci's idea of 'Hegemony'. The research objectives are multiple: to explore ideological feeding under communist and capitalist totalitarian regimes, to negotiate mind feeding through diverse psychological theories and to find out whether dystopian representation of dynamic mind feeding is a mere pessimistic view of the genre or a negative political feedback that stipulates reflection and or action.

**Key-words:** Mind feeding- authoritarian control- perceptual control- conditioning—Hegemony- Simulacra- state Apparatuses- Negative political feedback

## BIOGRAPHY NOTES

### **DR. Khaled Rjiba**

- Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Art and Humanities Sousse
- Has taught a variety of subjects mainly literature, writing about literature and academic writing
- PHD on: Writing the Self and the Other in Thomas Carlyle's Archives
- Research interests: colonial and postcolonial literature/ social/ Political/Utopian and dystopian fiction
- Wrote articles on Thomas Carlyle's semi and non-fictional works and George Orwell's Animal Farm and 1984.
- Future research project: Revisiting Thomas Carlyle and George Orwell: From Utopia to Dystopia/ from Hero-worship to Dictator-worship

### **Asma Azza Dridi**

Asma Dridi is a Professeure Agrégée at The Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences of Sousse (FLSHS). She has taught courses on grammar, literary and specialized translation. Her fields of interest include speculative fiction and its subgenres (more specifically science fiction and fantasy). She has recently submitted her PhD, revolving around Ray Bradbury, one of America's foremost speculative fiction writers.

**“I tasted sweetness and I tasted affliction’: Food, pleasure, pain and male body in Mohamed El-Khaldi’s Awtad”**

ABSTRACT

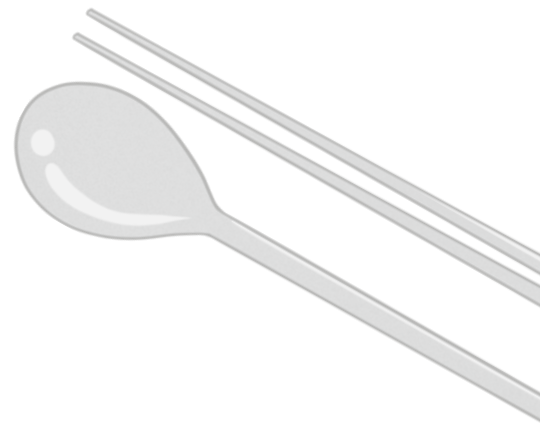
Attitudes toward food, and eating are an often-neglected area of study of Mohamed El-khaldi’s novel Awtad. The recurrent scenes of couscous preparations followed by love scenes call for pondering and reflecting. In this paper, I shall analyze these food-love scenes from a Sufi lens and understand their importance in providing the male characters with a sense of self-definition. In doing so, I will focus on the characters’ experiences of pain and pleasure as well as their explorations of their bodies and selves. By zooming in on these recurrent scenes, this article traces the cultural, ideological setting against which the novel is unfolding. I shall first detail the interconnection between body and food from a mystical experience of Sufism deeply rooted in Tunisian culture and society. Then, I will move to the analysis of specific scenes in the selected text. In doing so, I intend to highlight how the country’s Sufi legacy is penetrating people’s understanding of themselves. This study allows me to explore the importance of the country’s Sufi legacy as a drive for masculine self-knowledge in the New Man Tunisian fiction.

**Key-words:** Food, pain, pleasure, self-knowledge, Sufism, New Man fiction



## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Dr. Cyrine Kortas is a long-term MECAM fellow. She is an assistant professor of English Literature, and Head of the English Department at the University of Gabes, Tunisia. She is also a member of the Research Unit LAD at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Sfax. Her current research focuses on the influence of modernist English authors such as D. H. Lawrence on the rise of the modern novel in the Maghreb region; it explores the concept of the New Man in a selection of novels published in Tunisia and Morocco while introducing Sufism as a theory of analysis.



# Dr. Lilia Zouari

## Exile, Melancholia, and Culinary Memory in Elif Shafak's *The Bastard of Istanbul* and Diana Abu Jaber's *Crescent*

### ABSTRACT

This paper examines the theme of melancholia in Elif Shafak's *The Bastard of Istanbul* and Diana Abu-Jaber's *Crescent*, focusing on the exilic characters Hanif and Syrine, Iraqi Americans, and the Tchakmakachians, Armenian Americans, as they seek to recreate a sense of home through culinary memory. Both authors explore themes of exile, loss, and melancholia through the lens of culinary practices. For the Armenians, traditional dishes evoke their lost homeland Istanbul, allowing Shafak to emphasize the interconnectedness of Turks and Armenians. In *Crescent*, cooking becomes a crucial means for Syrine and her fiancé Hanif to navigate their experiences as displaced Iraqis. Their culinary traditions not only preserve their cultural identities but also help them cope with feelings of loss and longing for home. Both novels reveal that food transcends mere sustenance; it embodies the complexities of memory, cultural continuity, and identity formation. The paper further connects melancholia to both authors' silenced mourning and nostalgia for a glorious Islamic past, the lost Muslim state of Al-Andalus and the Ottoman Empire.

**Keywords:** memory, loss, melancholia, identity, Shafak, Abu Jaber.



## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Lilia Zouari is currently an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sousse. She holds a PhD in “Gothic Postmodernism and Gender Violence in the Selected Works of Bharati Mukherjee” awarded by the Faculty of Arts & Humanities of Sousse. Her scholarly pursuits revolve around the exploration of the fiction of female diaspora with a specific focus on intricate literary theories namely postmodernism, postcolonialism and gender studies.







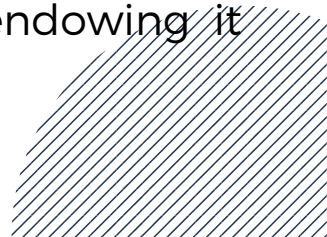

# **Dr. Sana Ayed Chebil**

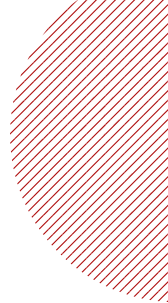

University of Sousse

## **Representations of Hunger in Charles Dickens's Gothic Novels**

### **ABSTRACT**

Charles Dickens's novels are described by many critics as realist novels. At the same time, they are assumed to be 'hybrid' literary works blending other many different genres including the Gothic. Dickens's novels are read as stories of urban crime, degeneration, the horrific environment of urban slums inhabited by foreigners and criminals, the threat of disease, sexuality, and gender transgression. Dickens uses the Gothic in order to enhance the idea that the ordinary world could be a useful material for a Gothic writer to produce fear and to criticize the poor living conditions and the criminal underworld in London. The use of the Gothic becomes a means of articulating the era's social problems. In fact, the reason behind the mixture of two different literary genres could be explained by the fact that Dickens cannot escape the alluring forces of the Gothic elements while dealing with the realistic themes in his novels: crime, poverty, spinsterhood, childhood, imprisonment, monstrous bodies, prostitution, hunger, and so many others. Hunger in Victorian Gothic literature is not simply related to food consumption and digestion; however, it has other symbolic meanings and connotations. The hungry body was used as a means to focus on the nineteenth-century issues such as poverty, racial difference, and crime that are depicted through the criminal body and represented according to certain scientific theories that appeared in the mid-Victorian era, endowing it with new interpretations.





This paper aims to show how hungry characters become the ground around which the Gothic is articulated. The theme of hunger is an important topic in Dickens's Gothic novels through which the criminal is depicted as the monstrous 'other' whose vivid description demonstrates elements of degeneration that are expressed through the monstrous body. The theme of hunger is tightly associated with the idea of sexuality which is represented metaphorically through vampirism.


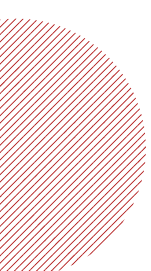
In Dickens's Gothic novels, hunger stands for immorality as the female characters' hunger symbolically represent gender issues and women who go beyond the boundaries of the passive women.

**Keywords:** Hunger, Gothic, Urban Gothic, Degeneration, Crime, Gender



#### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Sana Ayed Chebil is a Ph.D. holder in English Literature from The Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sousse, Tunisia. The title of her Doctoral dissertation is "The Urban Gothic in Oliver Twist, Bleak House, and Great Expectations". She has been working as a teacher since 2011: in the Higher Institute of Finance and Taxation of Sousse, the Higher Institute of Commerce, and the Higher Institute of Nursing. She teaches at The Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sousse.



## **Food and Social Media: The Ideological Aestheticization of Traditional Gender Roles**

### **ABSTRACT**

Food is one of the most recurrent leitmotifs on social media platforms. The creation of food videos has equally become synonymous with the construction of a certain image. Social media food influencers meticulously produce cooking videos that may appear at a first glance as innocent and neutral. However, analyzing this digital trope from a more critical lens lays bare the ideological web of meanings behind these food videos. This aesthetically curated content has contributed considerably in the public celebration of traditional gender roles. The digitally perfect image of the traditional stay-at-home mother making food from scratch instead of working is nowadays being romanticized as the antithesis of the capitalistic corporate world. In this light, I make reference to two controversial food content creators that have been receiving much media coverage: the case of "Ballerina Farm," and "Nara Smith" in order to highlight the ideological meanings behind the majority of food videos on social media.

**Keywords:** food, social media, gender roles, capitalism, ideology





## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Sana Ayed Chebil is a Professeur Agregée, graduate from Ecole Normale Supérieure of Tunis, and MA graduate from the Higher Institute of Languages, Tunis. I am also a writer at *The Medeterranean Perspective*, a website that publishes about Mediterranean issues, and a writer and translator in Successful Tunisia. My research interests include cultural studies, philosophy, political discourse analysis, and media studies.

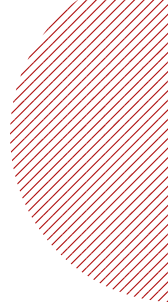



## **Strategic Integration: How Food Companies Use Media to Navigate Political Boycotts and Embed Themselves in Society**

### ABSTRACT




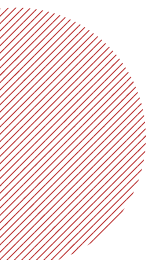

In an era of increasing political and ethical consumerism, food companies face growing scrutiny and the threat of boycotts for their environmental, labor, or political practices. However, many multinational food corporations have developed sophisticated techniques to integrate themselves into the social fabric of communities, using media and cultural strategies to protect their brand reputation and mitigate the impact of political boycotts. This presentation will explore the strategic methods food companies employ to navigate boycotts, maintain consumer loyalty, and avoid becoming targets of consumer activism. Focusing on corporate tactics such as "greenwashing," corporate social responsibility (CSR) campaigns, and sponsorship of community initiatives, this presentation will analyze how food brands leverage media platforms to craft favorable narratives. Techniques like partnering with local influencers, aligning with popular social causes, and launching extensive PR campaigns will be explored as ways food companies build emotional connections with consumers. Case studies such as Coca-Cola's sponsorship of community sports programs and Nestlé's sustainability campaigns will be examined to illustrate how these corporations adapt their branding and advertising strategies to avoid backlash while embedding themselves in local cultures.



Additionally, it will discuss how brands strategically use social media and influencers to build emotional connections with consumers, thereby reinforcing their presence in markets and circumventing potential boycotts. These examples highlight how media and marketing play crucial roles in crafting narratives that make food brands appear indispensable to the communities they serve. This presentation will provide insight into how these corporate strategies not only integrate companies into the social fabric but also allow them to sidestep political resistance by becoming deeply ingrained in everyday life.

### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Hussein Sghaier is an MA student in the Higher Institute of Languages, Gabes. He is a member of the organizing committee of the MA program in media studies and journalism. He contributed to events such as “Media Narratives” and “Resistance of Media and Media of Resistance.”





# Dr. Oussef Ferhani

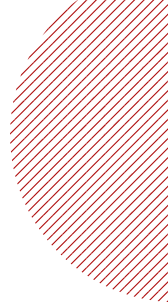

University of Jendouba

## **"American Pie": Food, Nostalgia, and National Identity in Hollywood Cinema**

### ABSTRACT

This paper explores how food, nostalgia, and national identity intersect in American cinema through *American Pie* (1999), *Pulp Fiction* (1994), and *Ratatouille* (2007). It argues that food in these films transcends its practical role, becoming a symbol of cultural identity and critique. In *American Pie*, food reflects the tension between traditional American values and evolving adolescent experiences. The iconic "apple pie" scene subverts nostalgic images of family and purity, underscoring shifts in gender and sexual norms within suburban culture. *Pulp Fiction* uses food to critique consumerism and globalization, with iconic scenes such as the "Big Kahuna Burger" and "Royale with Cheese" highlighting cultural imperialism and the fragmentation of American identity in the postmodern era. In *Ratatouille*, food represents the pursuit of excellence, self-discovery, and the blending of cultures. The film portrays food as both art and a vehicle for breaking class boundaries, as a rat rises to become a celebrated Parisian chef. It evokes nostalgia for traditional French cuisine while also celebrating the democratization of culinary arts, reflecting America's embrace of multiculturalism and the aspirational American Dream.

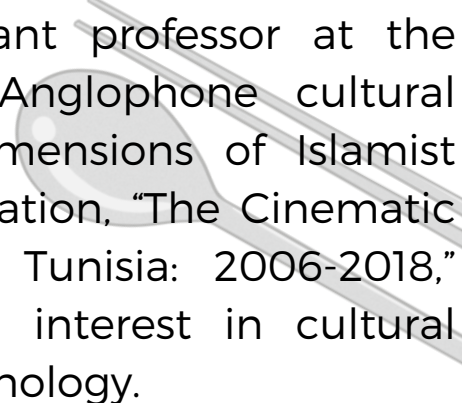





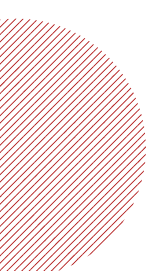
Through these films, food becomes a lens to critique and understand American identity, globalization, and cultural nostalgia. Drawing on Cultural Studies and thematic film analysis, this paper examines how food operates as a metaphor for identity construction, national belonging, and cultural critique in Hollywood.

**Keywords:** Food symbolism, Identity, Hollywood, Nostalgia, American Dream, Cultural Studies Film Theory

#### BIOGRAPHY NOTE



Oussef Farhani, a researcher and assistant professor at the University of Jendouba, specializes in Anglophone cultural studies. His MA thesis, “The Cultural Dimensions of Islamist Terrorism in Tunisia,” and his Ph.D. dissertation, “The Cinematic Representation of Islamist Terrorism in Tunisia: 2006-2018,” reflect his interdisciplinary research and interest in cultural studies, cinema, terrorism studies, and psychology.



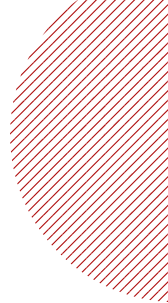

# Mariem Krida

University of Sousse

## **“We Can Have Our Cake and Eat It, Too!”: Serving Brexit at the Dinner Table**

### ABSTRACT

In the run-up to the Brexit referendum, concerns regarding food prices, quality and availability were frequently highlighted in the media. As food is fundamental to daily life, these issues were more likely to affect a significant portion of people living in Britain. Brexit has been approached through many lenses such as economic and political sovereignty, national identity, populism, immigration and asylum, nostalgia for an imperial glory and grandeur, neo-imperial fantasies and working-class revolt against uncontrolled migration and globalisation. While this paper is invested in these debates, the role of food in the academic discourse surrounding Brexit remained an overlooked area. This paper focuses on an episode featuring Swedish-British Ulrika Jonsson and American Dustin Lance Black from BBC's *Victoria Derbyshire Programme*, a televised blind date show. Set in a British café, Jonsson, representing a Leaver, and Black, a Remainer, present the debate over Europe through alimentary metaphors. Using Charteris-Black's (2004) Critical Metaphor Analysis (CMA) as an analytical framework, this paper demonstrates how political opinions are contested through metaphor and how food metaphors provide the raw material for both political manipulation and communication in the context of Brexit.

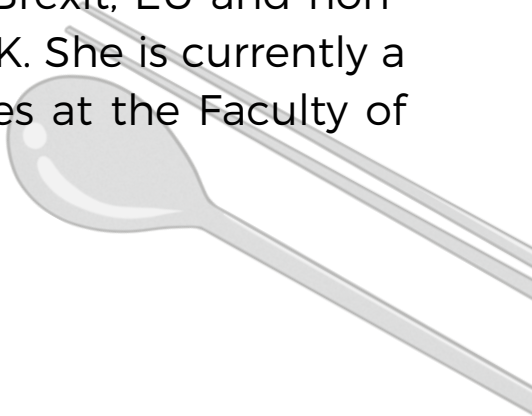


Overall, this paper argues that the symbolic and rhetorical use of food in this episode reflects a deliberate attempt to root the Brexit debate in a quintessentially British cultural framework deeply rooted in British identity and tradition, rather than focusing primarily on economic considerations.

**Keywords:** Brexit, alimentary metaphors, public sentiment, food politics, British media, migrants, queer identity

#### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Mariem Krida has recently finished her PhD thesis. Her areas of interest include British history and culture, Brexit, EU and non-EU migration and ethnic minorities in the UK. She is currently a part-time Assistant Teacher of British Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sousse.



# Dr. Emna Maazoun Zayani

University of Sfax

## “Food and Motivation: A pedagogical tool towards success”

### ABSTRACT

The impact of food as a powerful source of motivation and enthusiasm has been highlighted in different writings in the literature of teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL). Food has been approached as a powerful pedagogical tool that could be used to create a positive atmosphere of joy and motivation among learners in the sheltered environment to create a naturalistic milieu of learning and assimilation. This presentation is theoretical in nature and it will focus on the positive impact of relying on food description and implementation on the instructional tasks as a pedagogical tool to lower the psychological filter among learners and to close the educational gap between them and the teacher. Therefore, linking food with classroom motivation will be the main focus and concern of this presentation.

**Keywords:** Food, motivation, EFL, psychological filter, pedagogical tool, learning

### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Emna Maazoun Zayani holds a PhD in applied and theoretical linguistics. She has been teaching English as a foreign language at the tertiary level in Tunisia since 2013. She is an assistant professor in the Military Academy in Fondouk Jdid, Tunis. Her research interest focuses on written corrective feedback, teachers' professional development, and innovations in language pedagogy. She is a reviewer in different international journals and a board member of the International TESOL Journal.

# **Dr. Mourad Ben Slimane**

University of Sousse

## **The impact of Internet technology use on ESST preparatory students to promote English language proficiency: pedagogical implications and learning outcomes**

### **ABSTRACT**

In a globalized age of new technological development and massive circulation of information, a lot of strategies have been devised to enhance English language learning. The following article will start by contextualizing the digital era we are living in. Then, it will turn to provide a short description of language learning theories, which will be followed by a glimpse into technology development over time. Later, it will reveal the findings of a study that focuses on investigating the effect of Internet technology implementation on preparatory students of the ESST (the Higher School of Sciences and Technology of Hammam Sousse). Finally, it will end up by deducing some pedagogical implications of the aforementioned study and stimulating further research in the field of language learning and teaching.

# Boudour Gabsi

University of Sousse

## **The Crisis of Free Speech and Defamatory Speech in Food Advertising: A Critical Discourse Analysis of MC Libel Case**

### ABSTRACT

The fame that McDonald's has gained along with the decent image that it has maintained over the years are constantly challenged by critics (Samsudin et al., 2011, p.1). This creates a clash between free speech whose advocates believe in unrestricted expression as a matter of public interest and defamatory speech which damages reputation (Cain, 2012, p.275)

In this study, the researcher focuses on the pamphlet entitled "What's wrong with McDonald's?" published by Helen Steel and Dave Morris in the United Kingdom which consisted of 6 headlines accusing McDonald's of various transgressions (Nicholson, p.2).

The research's objective is twofold. First, the focus is exclusively put on the two parts of the pamphlet that mentioned food. Second, since the above mentioned "MC libel case" was mainly interpreted from legal approaches resulting in controversy (Wolfson, 1999, p.23), this research suggests a purely linguistic approach as to reinforce the court's decision concerning the lawsuit, if the analysis results were similar or as to suggest a new toolkit, potentially useful for future disputes. This research was based on van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis, which is classified into three major structures: macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure.



The analysis showed usage of scientific themes that contained pejorative disease-related words as an ideology to hinder consumers from buying Macdonald's foods. The excessive use of "their food" demonstrated how power is used as manipulation as McDonald's has firm position in society.

## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

A PHD candidate enrolled in the third year at the Higher Institute of Languages in Tunis, the University of Carthage supervised by Professor Mounir Triki, University of Sfax, and Professor Malika Temmar, University of Sorbonne. Boudour Gabsi is an adjunct teacher at the Higher Institute of Business Administration of Sfax as well as an English instructor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sfax (Geography Department), researching comparing free speech to defamation using interdisciplinary fields such as SFL, Speech act theory, and meaning's dimensions. She presented "Free speech vs Defamation as a (mis) interpretation of the speaker's intention", at the Study Day on Mutations organized by the Laboratory of Renovating Research Schemes and Pedagogies on Humanities, Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Kairouan, Tunisia, University of Kairouan. She also participated in the 7th International Conference at the English Department of the Higher Institute of Human Sciences of Tunis, Tunis University, El Manar: Beyond Solipsism: Narcissism as the Spectacle of Self and Culture Self-victimization as a Narcissistic Technique: A Rhetorical Analysis of Amber Heard's Speeches.

Internships:

France: from 16 March 2024 to 16 April 2024

Armenia: Summer course (YALP: Yerevan Academy for Linguistics and Philosophy) July 2024.






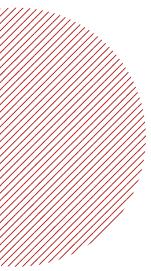
# **Dr. Najla Mosbehi**

University of Tunis

## **Poster Presentation: Starvation as a Weapon— The Genocide of Palestinian Children Under the Sub-Theme of Food and War**

### **ABSTRACT**

This poster presents a multimodal analysis of the ongoing conflict in Palestine in 2024, focusing on the use of food and starvation as weapons of war against children and civilians. Utilizing the framework of Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis (MCDA) developed by Machin and Mayr (2012), the analysis highlights how visual and textual elements convey the severity of the humanitarian crisis resulting from the conflict. The analysis underscores the power dynamics at play, revealing how food deprivation is employed as a strategy to exert control and inflict suffering on civilians. The poster concludes with a call to action, urging the international community to recognize the implications of using food as a weapon and to support humanitarian efforts that prioritize the rights and well-being of affected populations. By integrating MCDA, this work aims to raise awareness of the critical situation in Palestine and the urgent need for intervention to protect children and civilians from the consequences of war.



## References

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- Fairclough, N. (2010). Critical Discourse Analysis: The Critical Study of Language. London: Longman.
- Ledin, P., & Machin, D. (2018). Multi-modal critical discourse analysis. In The Routledge Handbook of Critical Discourse Studies (pp. 60-76). London/New York: Routledge.

## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Najla Mosbehi a MECAM fellow. She holds a PhD in English Language and Linguistics from the university of Sfax. Her expertise encompasses media studies, film studies, critical discourse analysis, multimodality, and applied linguistics. She is a teacher of English in the Military school.



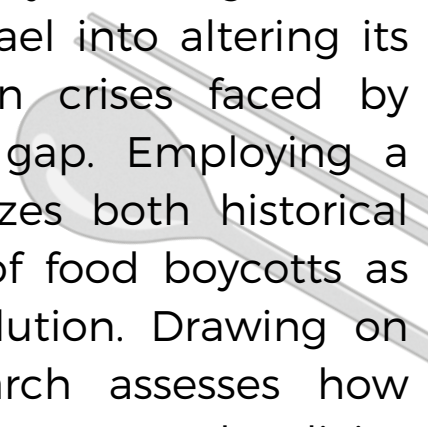
# Dr. Fathia Jellad

University of Sfax



## **Food Boycotts as Catalysts for Change: Examining the Impact of Israeli Product Boycotts on Geopolitical Dynamics**

### ABSTRACT

In the context of escalating geopolitical tensions, food has emerged as a strategic instrument for influencing political outcomes. The intersection of food, politics, and power dynamics has been well-documented; however, existing literature often overlooks the specific implications of such boycotts in the Israeli-Palestinian context. By focusing on the potential of these boycotts to pressure Israel into altering its policies and alleviating the humanitarian crises faced by Palestinians, this research fills a critical gap. Employing a qualitative methodology, the study analyzes both historical contexts and contemporary applications of food boycotts as tools for social justice and “conflict” resolution. Drawing on theories of political activism, this research assesses how boycotting Israeli products can impact governmental policies and promote sustainable peace efforts. Ultimately, this work aims to enrich the discourse surrounding the role of food in shaping political agendas and addressing global injustices.



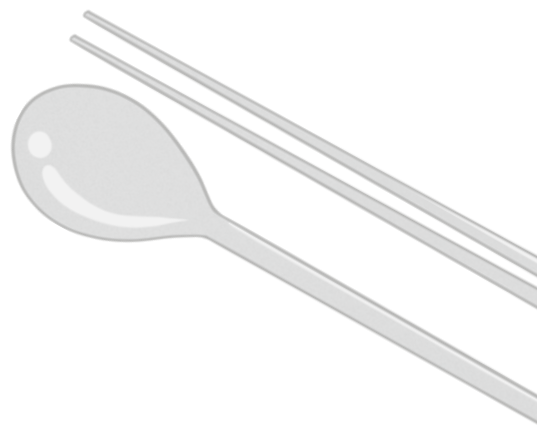
**Keywords:** Geopolitical tensions, Food boycotts, Israeli products, Political activism, Conflict resolution, Humanitarian crises, Peace efforts, Social justice.





## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Dr. Fathia Jellad earned her Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sousse under the supervision of Pr. Mohamed Salah Harzallah. She obtained her Master's degree in English Civilization from the University of Manouba and her English Literature, Linguistics, and Civilization BA from the Higher Institute of Languages in Moknine. She worked as a part-time teacher at the Faculty of Sousse and the Higher Institute of Languages in Moknine. Dr. Jellad has presented at various local and international conferences, including events in Morocco and Dubai. Currently, she works as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities in Sfax.



**Dr. Asma Chahed**  
University of Kairouan

## **Food and Race in William Faulkner's Light in August**

### **ABSTRACT**

Through writing about food, William Faulkner tries to represent his protagonist Joe Christmas as a person who is suspected of having black blood. This paper attempts to study *Light in August* as a work which reflects the interconnectedness between food and race through the interconnectedness between food and violence. There will be an attempt to study the character of Joe Christmas and his rejection of food due to his inability to afford it. This means that food is associated with racism. In other words, through his rejection of food, Joe Christmas is represented as a protagonist who is in a continuous quest for his identity. In this respect, this paper will attempt to study how the individual identity of Joe Christmas is shaped by the collective identity of his community through the motif of food. In fact, in the work food is associated with the "vomiting metaphor" and castration. Accordingly, Joe's rejection of women leads to his rejection of food. This means that food and sex in the work are interconnected as women notably Mrs McEachern and Joanna Burden are represented as providers of food. This, in turn, justifies Christmas' continuous feelings of hunger after killing Joanna Burden which refers to Faulkner's negative representation of food as suggested in his book.

**Keywords:** Food, race, violence, rejection, racism, vomiting, sex



## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Asma Chahed is an Assistant Professor affiliated with the University of Kairouan. She is a holder of a Ph.D in Southern American literature. Her major interests include race, racism, identity issues and marginalized people as well as the representation of black figures in historical and literary texts. Her Ph.D thesis is entitled “Representations of the Mulatto in William Faulkner’s Fiction: Selected Works.”

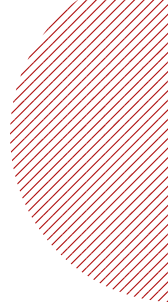



## **The Glocalization of American Food Trends in Culinary Reality Shows: MBC's Top Chef as a Case Study**

### **ABSTRACT**

American culinary reality shows such as Top Chef have gained worldwide appeal and have had dozens of copycat and spin-off shows throughout the globe, enabling them to revolutionize food culture. Since 2016, the Arab broadcaster MBC has produced seven Arab adaptations of the US Top Chef. Drawing on the glocalization perspective and relying on the random method of sampling, the paper at hand carries out a content analysis of seven seasons of Top Chef, filmed in Dubai, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia between 2016 and 2024, in an attempt to study the food trends promulgated in them. After viewing two episodes from each season and coding the fourteen episodes under study using the qualitative content analysis software NVivo, the study has revealed that there is a glocalization of two major American food trends, which are heavy reliance on convenience food and a growing quest for healthy eating. The participants of the Arab Top Chef are featured while consuming or using different types of convenience food options, from sit-down and fast food restaurants to ready-to-eat, ready to cook and processed food. In some episodes, however, they appear to be preoccupied with adopting healthy food alternatives, including veganism, vegetarianism, and embracing many of the principles of the California cuisine.



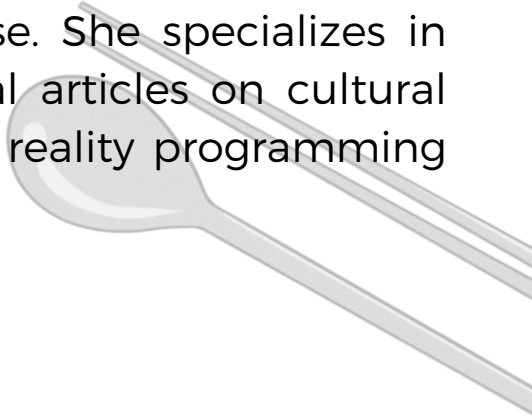


One of the main findings of the paper at hand is that the Arab adaptations of Top Chef serve to promote some aspects of the US lifestyle, in the form of food trends, by popularizing them among Arabs and ingraining them within the Arab culinary traditions.

**Keywords:** MBC; Top Chef; glocalization; food trends; convenience food; healthy eating

#### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Rim Letaief is an Assistant Professor in Cultural Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sousse. She specializes in media studies and has published several articles on cultural expression and gender portrayal in Arab reality programming and Netflix's original Arabic content.



# **Rashida Alhassan Adum-Atta**

Leiden University

## **Building Bridges and Blocking Paths Through Food; Negotiating The Presence of Pig Feet (Trotter) Among Traders and Interreligious Practitioners in Madina Market, Accra**

### **ABSTRACT**

Food is an important dimension of life in the plural religious setting of Madina Zongo, Accra (Ghana). People eat together, exchange food items and visit the same market space to buy foodstuffs. By focusing on the sale of pig feet (trotter) in Madina market, a commodity that is considered haram and unclean by Muslims, this paper explores how the presence of certain foodstuffs in shared spaces such as the market, that are inhabited by people of different religious traditions, trigger religious sensibilities and evoke strong responses among those frequenting the space (e.g. market women and customers). Using Mary Douglas's Purity and danger as a guide, this paper studies how religiously contested and so-called 'contaminated' foodstuffs such as pig feet (trotter) result as a boundary-making practices among members of the market community and investigates the strategies that people develop to negotiate the presence of these so-called contaminated food items.



## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Rashida Alhassan Adum-Atta is a PhD researcher on the Madina Project. The focus of her project is “Food as Entry Point to the Material Study of Religion in Plural Settings”. She investigates how food acts as a matter for inclusion and exclusion in everyday social relations and the implications for coexistence. Her focus is on food exchange among Muslims and Christians and to a lesser extent, practitioners of African Traditional Religion, in Madina Zongo; a diverse neighborhood in Accra, the capital of Ghana.



# Dr. Fourat El Hattab

University of Berlin

## National Cuisine in big cities

### ABSTRACT

The so-called “national cuisine” reflects mostly the cuisine of big cities with larger historical and economical influences, leaving noncentral areas under-represented and their cuisine and food ways less documented. This highlights the need for more research to better understand the peripheral local cuisine and its relationship to the environment and ecology. In the mountains vs sea duality, areas like Deir Atieh (Qalamoun mountains, Damascus suburbs, Syria) and Kerkennah Islands (Mediterranean eastern coast of Tunisia) have been going through ecological changes such as the drought of primary water source and decrease of fish stock. These changes might have consequences on food rituals and tastes, and with those areas being marginalized, communities might be more affected by these changes and their influence on food cultures. This research examines ecological changes such as drought and deficiency of marine life in particular in off center areas of Deir Atieh and Kerkennah and how these changes may affect food culture and people’s interaction with food and tastes. These insights are important to understand the dynamic relationship between environment and food cultures and perhaps identify patterns of adaptation highlighting cultural resilience across these areas. The research will first pursue local ancestral knowledge through oral history to capture the reshaping of food culture, rituals and tastes throughout different phases of ecological changes. Then, it will examine the decline or return of traditional crops or techniques and their effect on culinary behavior. That is to finally explore new influences to the food culture and tastes that came with the adaptability and resilience of communities.



# Dr. Ahmed Badawi Mustapha

University of Ghana

## Nuances of Religious Coexistence: Festivities and Festive Foods in Madina

### ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the dual function performed by festivities and festive food exchanges in Madina Zongo, a multicultural suburb of Accra. Bringing the commonly celebrated festivities (Eidul Fitr, Eidul Adha, Christmas, Homowo) in Madina into comparison, the paper draws on ethnography together with semi-structured interviews with relevant interlocutors practicing the main religions in Madina (i.e., Islam, Christianity, and African Traditional Religions) to uncover the dynamism set into motion by these festivities and their attendant food exchanges. Utilizing the Mary Douglas's notion of 'Purity and Danger', Sara Ahmed's notion of 'performativity of disgust' and Marcel Mauss' gift (or reciprocity), the study explores the sensory, imaginative, and affective workings of food sharing during these festivities, through the lives of the residents of Madina. In doing so, the paper offers insights into how festivities and festive food exchanges can hold out conditions of inter-religious mutuality, while having the potential of serving as a conduit through which contention could be triggered.

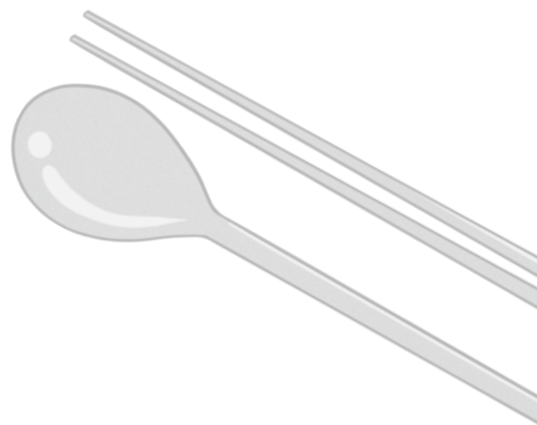


**Keywords:** Festive Food, Eidul Fitr, Eidul Adha, Christmas, Homowo(Homowo), Madina



## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Dr. Ahmed Badawi Mustapha is a prominent academic affiliated with both the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana in Accra and the African Studies Centre at Leiden University in the Netherlands. His work primarily focuses on African studies, contributing to a deeper understanding of the continent's social, political, and economic dynamics.



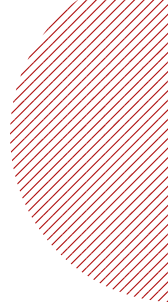

**Dr. Sonali Agarwal**  
Delhi University

## **The Female Identity and Gender Roles in the Great Indian Kitchen**

### **ABSTRACT**

The Great Indian Kitchen, a 2021 Malayalam film written and directed by Jeo Baby, is a powerful and thought-provoking critique of gender roles in India. Set in Kerala, the film exposes the patriarchal values that confine women to household chores, especially the expectation that a wife's primary duty is to cook for her husband's family and serve them. The film charts the life of a young woman who struggles to adapt to her husband's orthodox family after her marriage. Her life becomes an unending round of relentless drudgery as she works like a slave in the kitchen from daybreak to night. There are endless repetitive shots of women chopping, slicing, boiling, frying, grinding, cleaning, sweeping, etc as they toil like Sisyphus, while the men of the house lounge around and indulge in recreational activities. The film highlights the glaring inequality of traditional gender roles and gendered domestic spaces. It also critiques the men's sense of entitlement, and their obliviousness to the plight of their women. The household depicted in the film can be seen as typical of most Indian households, where women are exploited as unpaid labour. The film also incorporates the stigma associated with menstruation, the taboos attached to it, and the intersection between religion and patriarchy. The film is revolutionary in its feminist critique of gender roles which are usually taken for granted and internalized as normal in Indian society.






Though the male characters in the film are not verbally or physically abusive, the film reveals the silent, subtle and insidious violence that is perpetrated daily within conventional households. The simmering anger of the female protagonist eventually erupts in the end as she breaks free of her domestic shackles and walks towards freedom.

### BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Dr. Sonali Agarwal is an Associate Professor in the Dept of English, at Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi University, India. Her areas of interest are speculative fiction, children's fiction and women's studies.



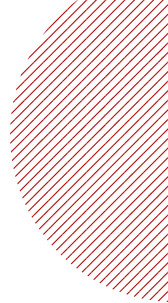

# **Dr. Hela Makhlouf Gargouri**

University of Sfax

## **Nourishing Dyslexic Learners: Feeding Literacy Through Inclusive Pedagogy and Personalized Instruction**

### **ABSTRACT**

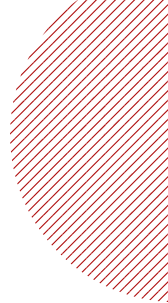

Dyslexia, a learning difficulty that primarily affects reading and language processing, presents unique challenges that demand specific educational strategies. In education, dyslexic students often face struggles that make traditional methods of reading instruction feel like a diet ill-suited to their needs. Just as proper nourishment is vital for physical growth, literacy development for students with dyslexia requires carefully tailored “ingredients” that meet their unique learning profiles. This review article offers a clear understanding of how to design Assessment Literacy Tests for appropriate diagnosis, ensuring that the “meal” provided through educational support is well-suited to the learner. Accurate and early identification serves as the foundation for feeding students with structured literacy (SL) approaches: an essential recipe that combines explicit, systematic instruction to meet the “nutritional” demands of dyslexic learners. The article also explains how tailored one-to-one multisensory teaching engages multiple senses, allowing students to “digest” information more effectively by transforming abstract concepts into tangible learning experiences. Just as varied ingredients create a balanced meal, diverse teaching strategies provide the mental sustenance needed for meaningful learning. Feedback, much like seasoning, plays a key role in shaping this learning process.




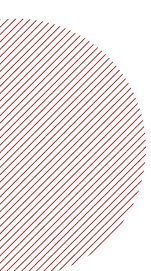
By offering timely and personalized responses, educators refine students' understanding, ensuring their continuous growth. This paper emphasizes that inclusive pedagogies act as a communal table where all students, including those with dyslexia, are invited to learn without exclusion. Together, structured literacy, personalized instruction, and timely feedback create a rich educational “banquet” that nurtures dyslexic learners, fostering their literacy growth and empowering them with the essential skills to flourish.

**Keywords:** dyslexia, diagnosis, inclusive pedagogies, Structured Literacy, personalized instruction.

## BIOGRAPHY NOTE



Hela is a Doctor in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics with a focus on psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, and educational psychology. Her research explores the connection between language, the human brain, and society. Concentrated on the primary goal of enhancing the literacy skills of SpLD students, her work revolved around the adaptation of pedagogies for dyslexics, a testament to her dedication to innovative teaching methodologies. She is a member of the LAD (Linguistic Analysis and Discourse) and Syflat research groups. She is currently working as a contractual assistant at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sousse where she is committed to fostering intellectual development and academic rigor.



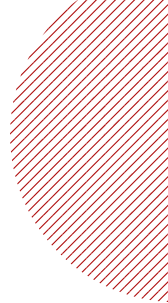

# Dr. Houda Ayari

University of Sousse

## **Exploring Cultural Identity Through Cuisine: Food and the Second-Generation Immigrants' Identity Crisis in the United States, Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* as Case Study**

### ABSTRACT

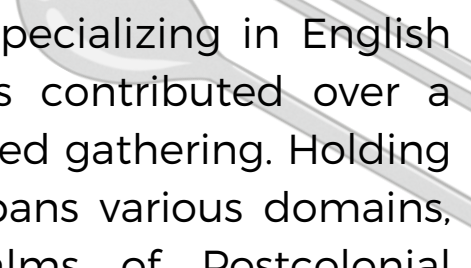
In *The Namesake* (2003), Jhumpa Lahiri uses food as a potent symbol of cultural continuity, identity formation, and the challenges of immigrant life. This paper examines the role of food as a symbol of cultural identity and ambivalence, focusing on the Indian American second-generation immigrant experience and its complex relationship with identity formation. Using the postcolonial theory, particularly Homi Bhabha's concept of "cultural hybridity," the paper explores how second-generation characters, like Gogol Ganguli, navigate between their Bengali heritage and American norms, with food serving as a site of both connection and conflict. Food represents the "Third Space" where Gogol negotiates his dual identity/ies, and his evolving relationship with traditional Bengali cuisine reflects his internal struggle to reconcile these cultural poles. Benedict Anderson's notion of "imagined communities" helps explore the Ganguli family's connection to Bengali cultural identity, sustained through food. Ashima's adherence to traditional Bengali dishes attempts to create a diasporic community in an unfamiliar American setting, preserving cultural memory through acts of feeding and nurturing. Stuart Hall's theories on cultural identity and diaspora will illuminate my analysis of Gogol's changing food preferences toward self-acceptance and an emerging bicultural identity.





Finally, this paper considers food as a medium of both alienation and adaptation, employing Sara Ahmed's concept of "strange encounters" to explore how Gogol's rejection or acceptance of Bengali food marks his self-positioning within American society. By examining food as a lens through which Lahiri explores immigrant identity, family dynamics, and intergenerational tensions, the paper illuminates how culinary rituals underscore themes of identity negotiation and cultural belonging in second-generation immigrant experiences in the US.

**Keywords:** Second-generation identity, Cultural hybridity, Food symbolism, Diaspora and cultural memory, Immigrant experience, Third space, Belonging and alienation, Bicultural identity, Imagined communities.

## BIOGRAPHY NOTE



Dr. Houda Ayari, a distinguished scholar specializing in English Language, Literature, and Civilization, has contributed over a decade of scholarly prowess to this esteemed gathering. Holding a Ph.D. in her field, Dr. Ayari's research spans various domains, with notable contributions in the realms of Postcolonial literature, Gender studies, and Trauma theory. Her scholarly repertoire includes seminal articles such as "Re-visiting Nella Larsen's *Passing*: An Avant-garde Vision to the Re-construction of Black Women's Self-image at a Postcolonial Stage"; and "History, Trauma, and Healing in a Post-trauma Stage: Toni Morrison's *Beloved* as Case Study". Dr. Ayari's dedication to innovative pedagogy and the integration of technology in education further underscores her commitment to fostering inclusive learning environments.



# Dr. Hanen Jrah Harzallah

## The impact of Nutrition on Women's Psychological Health

### ABSTRACT

Nutrition plays a crucial role in shaping women's overall health, including their psychological well-being. Several research studies highlight the significant correlation between dietary patterns and mental health outcomes in women. On the one hand, nutrient deficiencies, such as inadequate intake of essential vitamins (B-vitamins, vitamin D...), minerals (iron, magnesium...), and fatty acids (omega-3...), have been linked to increased risks of anxiety, depression, and cognitive decline. On the other hand, diets rich in fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and good fats, have been associated with improved mental health outcomes, potentially reducing the risk of developing mood disorders. The psychological effects of nutrition are especially relevant during key life stages for women, such as pregnancy, menstruation, and menopause, where hormonal fluctuations may amplify the need for proper nutrition. Promoting nutritional interventions may offer a complementary approach to mental health care for women across the lifespan.

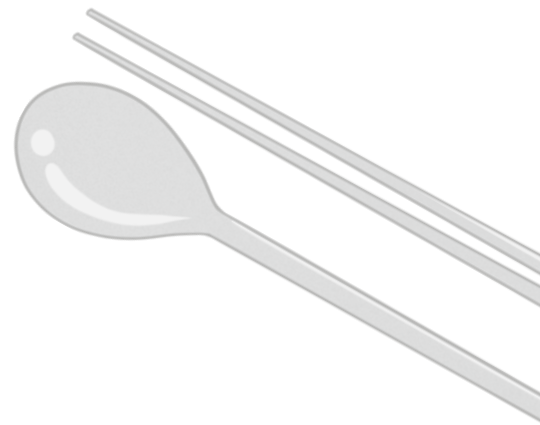
**Key words:** nutrition – women's health – psychology – balanced diet





## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Hanene JRAH Harzallah Doctor of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Master in Nutrition and Micronutrition, Lecturer at the Institut Supérieur des Sciences Infirmières Sousse, Researcher and team leader at the Génome Humain et Maladies Multifactorielles research laboratory. Her expertise is in drug development through trials animal models (colon cancer and diabetes) and clinical trials on clinical trials on healthy volunteers. Principal investigator of several international research projects.









# **Dr. Imen Bennani**

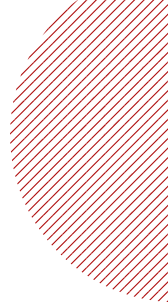

University of Sousse

## **‘wa khobz wa zaatar wa zeit’: Food Tropes and Culinary Imagery in Palestinian American poetry: Effective Resistance or Mere Fetishism?**

### **ABSTRACT**

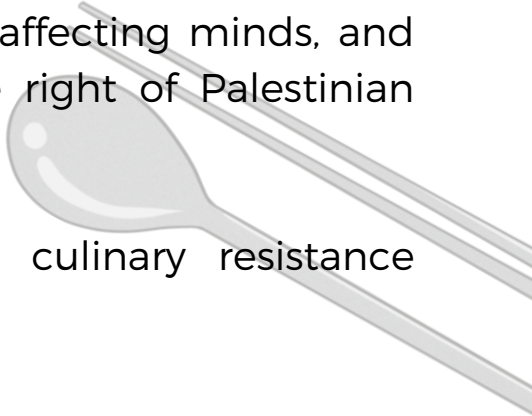
This paper proposes to revisit the use of food tropes and culinary imagery in contemporary Palestinian American poetry. Food and culinary rites have been constant elements in Arab American literature in general and in Palestinian American writings in particular. In addition to the correlation between food as a cultural marker in a multiethnic United States and (hyphenated) identity, questions of belonging, tradition, and nostalgia are often evoked and explored. In poetry by Palestinian American writers, these elements acquire a more evocative significance since they become tightly related to the question of Palestine and the struggle for freedom. Thus, they serve to underscore pride in origins, resistance against the occupier, and a cherished hope for ‘return’ to Palestine. Examples include poetry written by N. S. Nye, Fawaz Turki, Nathalie Handal, Fady Joudah, and Suheir Hammad. The discussion around the inclusion of food tropes and culinary imagery in poetry by Arab and/or Palestinian American writers has varied between favorable feedback and critical reception. Despite acknowledging the relevance of such elements in the literature, there has been a call to renovate styles and themes, transcend the theme of identity, and move beyond recurrent elements such as food, family, rituals, and tradition lest they mire the literature and reduce those elements to mere fetishism. Given the current events in Gaza and the momentous changes noticed in the Palestinian people ongoing struggle for survival, freedom, and dignity, a look at Palestinian American poetry to discuss the implications of food tropes and culinary rites is worthy.







Do food tropes still truly convey a sense of resistance? To what extent is the recurrent exploration of Palestinian foodways in the poetry effective? Is the poetic rendition of culinary rites in this poetry a real shield against amnesia and a reliable preserver of identity and heritage or is it just an instance of sheer fetishism? Following an eclectic approach, this paper proposes a look into these questions. Therefore, it includes three parts. Part one is on food: its relevance in Palestinian American poetry and meaningful exploration as an obvious cultural marker. Part two is on feeding: it delineates the way food tropes and culinary rites feed collective consciousness, preserve Palestinian identity, and nourish the spirit of resistance against the occupier. Part three includes feedback on the extent towards which those elements succeed in initiating change, affecting minds, and transforming discourses on freedom and the right of Palestinian people to own their land.

**Keywords:** poetry Palestinian identity food culinary resistance fetishism



## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Imene Chaabane Bennani is an assistant professor of English. She is a graduate of the Faculty of Arts of Sousse where she currently teaches literature. Her fields of interest are contemporary literature, poetry, and translation.



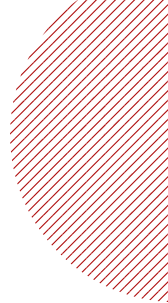

# Dr. Jamila Zghal

University of Kairouan

## Food Security : a Cause and Result in the Politics of the Russian War-on Ukraine

### ABSTRACT

FOOD is the substance of the Human nature that struggles for resistance and powerful survival. Throughout history, food has always been a tool of empowerment and so domination ; in that, major wars and conflicts have their traces in securing food supplies. In the political arena, food security is a basic target in politicians' agendas. In this context comes the war on Ukraine in 2022 that covertly has broad political interests for Russia but, in reality, it has its deep roots in Ukraine's « geo-political flash point » representation and « home to much of » Russia's « agricultural production » (Masters, 2023). Historically, Ukraine had strong political, geographical, cultural and economic bonds with Russia. It was the cornerstone and the vitality of the Soviet Union till 1991 and « its decision to sever ties in 1991 proved to be a coup de grace for the ailing superpower » (ibid). The war on Ukraine in 2022 reflects an economic, and crucially-important cause that Russia liked to settle militarily. Following this war, the Politics of food as a green weapon for the Russian world security has led to Poetics of insecurity and disruption of food supplies worldwide (Filho, 2023, p. 1) and the aggravation of the global food crisis (Council of the European Union, 2024). This study focuses on the literature dealing with this war (Joseph and Nye, 2022 ; Masters, 2023 ; Filho, 2023, report of Council of the European Union, 2024...).



To study this review, Critical discourse analysis offers a rich context of in-depth investigation of the theme of food, its weight and concern in the literature cited. The application of this interdisciplinary approach to investigate language as a social practice, has revealed the major finding of the predominance of food security in the political agenda of Russia as a superpower.

**Keywords:** Food security, food crisis, war, Russia, Ukraine, agenda, resistance,



# Dr. Julius Dihstelhoff

Marburg University, MECAM, Tunis University

## BIOGRAPHY NOTE

Dr. Julius Dihstelhoff (Marburg University, MECAM, Tunis University) is the Academic Coordinator at the Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM), a position he has held since May 2020. Based in Tunis, Tunisia, he oversees the operational aspects of MECAM and coordinates efforts between its administrative office, directors, and executive council. His work is pivotal in facilitating international collaboration and advancing research initiatives within the center. Dr. Dihstelhoff earned his PhD in Political Science from Philipps University of Marburg. It explored the perceptions of German Foreign Policy in Tunisia after 2010, reflecting its implications on the MENA region in general and Tunisia in particular. His research interests include:

- German foreign policy in the MENA region
- Political transformation processes in Tunisia
- Political Islam and regional (re-)ordering

Dr. Dihstelhoff has contributed significantly to understanding these themes through

various publications and ongoing projects, examining the dynamics of political Islam and its impact on regional stability and international relations.