ABSTRACTS

Anbu Durai, Psychiatrist, The Banyan, Chennai

Route Map to ‘Well-th’

This is a set of lifestyle approaches aimed at holistic wellbeing, from a preventive promotive and early intervention perspective, relating to both the individual and community action. This presents the whole approach from a game perspective, from 0 – 100, ‘paramapadam sopanam’ (snakes and ladders). Basically, it is looks at the lifestyle choices we make for ourselves, which lead us individually and in turn the community forward in a positive manner or into downward spiral, or to stagnate at a certain level. Including fatal choices, which end the game prematurely.

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Louise Borst, Master student in anthropology; Christian Medical College Vellore/University of Copenhagen Denmark

Social aspects of negotiating a diabetic diet: extended cases from rural Tamil Nadu

The South Indian State of Tamil Nadu has a high prevalence rate of type-2 diabetes and incidence is increasing also in rural areas. Improved medical care, self-monitoring, and lifestyle changes help control the chronic condition, thus sociological factors influence long-term outcome. The dominant medical paradigm for treatment of type-2 diabetes is self-management, by which individuals are awarded responsibility and agency in obtaining control of their body, particularly that of blood sugars and food consumption.

This study is based on six months ethnographic fieldwork in a village in Vellore District of northern Tamil Nadu. Data was collected via continuous home visits, conversations, semi-structured interviews, and group discussions with 10 diabetes-afflicted individuals and their peers. During discussions of food and practices of eating, people refer to various sources: humoral and biomedical theories; ecological ideas of the impact of pesticides, fertilisers, and adulterated or processed foods; perceptions of quality, quantity, variety, and cost, which inform attempts to adjust dietary behaviour. By following individuals over time and basing the study in their home setting it becomes apparent that the ‘healthy diet’ encouraged by medical practitioners interweaves with various fragmented lay understandings of the impact of food upon health. Yet, the practice of eating is not just to do with consuming/omitting calories for energy supply; it is a communal practice that embeds social relationships and hierarchies. Whether or
not individuals are able to incorporate dietary advice into their daily life and control their ‘sugar’ by limiting consumption of white rice, deep-fried items and sweets, depends on their social and economical status more than individual intentions. The investigators attribute these insights to the method of conducting extended case studies that were community rather than institution-based.

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Susan Bose, Clinical dietician, public health nutritionist and researcher, Bangalore

*Nutritional needs of the mentally-challenged, with a focus on a balanced diet for women from low-income families*

Several nutritional factors can influence mental health, including: overall energy intake, intake of the energy-containing nutrients (proteins, carbohydrates, and fats), alcohol intake, and intake of vitamins and minerals. Often deficiencies of multiple nutrients rather than a single nutrient, are responsible for changes in brain functioning.

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Alain Clément, Lecturer at the department of Economics, University Francois Rabelais of Tours, France.

*Price volatility and food security in Europe: The intellectual theories and their contribution to the contemporary debates.*

The food crisis and urban riots that many countries have witnessed these past few years urge us to reopen the debates on the factors which provoke the volatility of food prices. In this paper, I propose to revisit the major economic texts published since the 16th century on food inflation, in order to trace how the issue of volatility of food prices has been analysed during different periods. The study of these texts shows that the volatility of prices has been attributed to different causes and that several strategies have been suggested, favouring the intervention either directly on the prices of the agricultural products, or indirectly through taxes on agricultural profits. The different proposals on how to stabilize the food market highlight an irreducible opposition between a strategy influenced by liberal ideology which gives primacy to the auto-regulating mechanisms of the market, and a strategy of the interventionist type which considers the government as an essential and efficient actor for regulating the market. The first strategy, especially promoted before the 18th century, is based on the juridico-disciplinary order, to quote Foucault’s expression, and aims to avoid food shortages; the second, developed after the 18th century, is based on the liberalization of exchanges taking into account many parameters such as production, profit, market, and emphasizes more on reducing food shortages rather than eradicating them. The study of these economic texts shows that the
opposition between a governance that is dependent on the market, and public governance, seems insurmountable.

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Tristan Fournier, Post-doctorate, CERTOP, University Toulouse Le-Mirail, France
Changing eating habits for health reasons? Commensality and living situations must be considered

This paper presents some of the main results of a recently defended PhD in sociology that aimed at understanding how people living with hypercholesterolaemia in France comply with, or deviate from, a dietary prescription. Since hypercholesterolemia is considered as a major rectifiable cardiovascular risk factor, people are encouraged by the physician to change their eating habits notably in favor of a lower consumption of fatty foods such as cheese, butter, processed meat, etc. Although these recommendations are generally individualized and aim at “educating” the patients to eat in a “better” way, this research emphasizes that people with a good level of nutritional knowledge are not consistently the most compliant with the prescribed diet. Above all, and according to socio-anthropological theories, it must be said that eating activity (cooking and food contact) is in line with interactions processes and understandable at social and domestic levels.

Qualitative (N = 30) and then quantitative (N = 800) surveys were led so as to investigate the influences of the eating together and the living together on the dietary compliance for hypercholesterolaemic people in France.

Both comprehensive and statistical results confirm that commensality has an ambivalent role as regards to the nutritional status. On the one hand, it works as a social facilitation because deviations from the prescribed diet mainly occur during socialized and festive meals. But on the other hand, commensality also allows a social control on what and in which quantities people eat. This apparent paradox invites us to pay more attention to the influences of the relatives on eating choices. Finally, analyzing the organization of the domestic meals also needs to consider how the food-related social roles are shared between spouses. These data may constitute some new insights for the diet-health debate.

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Gayatri, Director of SNEHA, Chennai

‘SNEHA – Services, Outreach, and Care for the Depressed’

This presentation will highlight SNEHA’s work in the field of mental health, and appraise the audience on their services, and outreach work. It will also focus on the care for the depressed, and problems caused by depression, on the individual and family.

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Mohamed Houbaida, Pr. of History and anthropology of the Maghreb’, Dpt of Humanities, University Ibn Tofail, Kénitra, Maroc

Dietary and food security in Maghreb in a historical perspective

Studies conducted in 1970 by French physiologists such as Charles Kayser and his assistants, claimed that ‘Humans can live with a diet be it rich or poor in nutritional value’. According to them, food requirements are dependant on the socio-demographical profile of populations. The physiological response to food patterns has been analysed in the history of Magrebis. In precolonial period, their diet was mostly made of grains (cereals, pulses, dry fruits), vegetables and fruits, defined as ‘naturally poor’, implicitly in energy, by historical sources. The heath imbalance occurred when the availability of food declined during food shortages and famine periods. In these situations again, the underweight people were described as more resistant to food scarcity. The biological adjustment to a low-energy food pattern has been studied in food sciences as well as in social sciences. When Charles Kayser affirms that underweight people are more resistant, he makes us think about the concepts which were elaborated by Ibn Khaldoun, an Arab historian of the 14th century. Ibn Khaldoun considered that the rural populations which had a frugal diet composed of barley and fruits were capable of resisting to famines better than urban people who had got used to living in abundance.

In my presentation, I will discuss the positions developed in the Moroccan historical sources regarding the food patterns of different socio-demographic populations during ordinary time and famines. I will then analyse environmental, historical and ideological contexts in which frugality was favoured while gluttony was condemned.

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Sanjeev Jain, Psychiatrist, NIMHANS, Bangalore

Famine and the Nature of Schizophrenia

Regional variations are observed in the outcome of schizophrenia, but reasons remain unclear. Outcome of schizophrenia is reported to be better in India. In this report based on census data, we highlight substantially greater mortality observed among the mentally ill than among the general population during famines in India in the 19th century. A possible selection against the most severe forms of schizophrenia could account for greater occurrence of better-outcome phenotypes. Population histories and environmental influences, including epigenetics, need to be considered to further investigate differences between schizophrenia phenotypes.

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Ajeet Jaiswal, Assistant professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Pondicherry

A Study on the Intake and Expenditure of Calories among the Manufacturing Worker

My presentation is an ongoing study. It will document the relationship between heaviness of work and calorie consumption. It is based on a study of workers involved in different activity sectors of 21 textile industries located in Uttar Pradesh that I am carrying out since 2010. Based on new development survey data including anthropological, medical and physiological information, the study assesses the proportion of the calorie intake spent by industrial workers involved in different activities. The first analysis of this data seems contrary to what we might expect. However, to confirm it and refine the study, a further investigation needs to be conducted notably using accurate dietary survey.

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Mira Kandar, Independant Researcher, World Policy Institute, New York

After Bt Brinjal: The Promise and Perils of GMOs and Indian Agriculture

In 2009, a controversy erupted in India around the commercialization of the country’s first genetically modified vegetable, aubergines carrying the insecticide bacillus thuringiensis. Public opposition to the cultivation of this plant, popularly called “Bt Brinjal”, caused India’s Ministry of Forests and Environment to impose a moratorium in February 2010 until a consensus could be reached on the plant’s potential risks to the environment and to public health. Developed by Mahyco, an Indian subsidiary of Monsanto, in partnership with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and cleared by India’s Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in October 2009, the plant
was promoted as having the potential to double yields as well as to reduce pesticide use by 42 per cent. Economic gain to the crop’s developers and to farmers from the transgenic crop was estimated at $108 million. But concerns about the testing protocols used to demonstrate the crop’s benefits, conflicts of interest among members of the GEAC, potential negative effect on human health and potential damage to soils and non-transgenic plants cultivated in proximity sparked sufficient backlash for the moratorium to be declared.

India is under pressure to find solutions to an agricultural crisis that has led to the suicides of an estimated 250,000 farmers during the past decade alone, inflation of food prices and the necessity to import food in order to feed its growing population, the projected impact of climate change on agricultural production and high rates of pesticide use. Genetically modified crops have been proposed as providing the solution to these multiple challenges as well as the potential to turn India into an important global developer and marketer of these crops, giving a boost to its emerging biotechnology sector. My project will consist of examining the complex issues and actions surrounding the development and commercialization of genetically modified food crops in India, and their potential to address India’s agricultural and food crises.

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Sunil Kumar, Psychologist, Wisdom Hospital, Chennai

*Familial and Societal Influences on Substance Abuse Disorders and vice versa.*
This presentation will focus on the reasons for the prevalence of substance abuse disorders, and the effects that the family and the society have on the progression of substance abuse disorders. It also looks at the effects that substance abuse disorders themselves, have on the family and society at large. Psychological issues regarding distress and the mind-body relationship will be discussed. The talk will be from the standpoint of a practitioner.

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Thanuja Mummidi, Associate professor, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry

*Threatening Nutritional Security: State Induced Dietary Change among the Konda Reddis, South India*

The Konda Reddis of this study are a forest-dwelling community classified under the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PTG) category by the Government of India in 1980. The most important aspect of the Konda Reddis is their diversified livelihood. As argued elsewhere (Thanuja, 2005), shifting cultivation which is their mode of subsistence is a diversified strategy which allows management of time, space and labour in practicing cultivation, hunting, gathering, rearing livestock, maintaining kitchen gardens and making of bamboo ware. This diversified livelihood facilitates a dietary
intake of multiple millets and pulses along with products of hunting and collection. However, increased participation in the state development programmes and the market has induced dietary changes in the Konda Reddis destroying the biodiversity in their consumption pattern. Significantly here, the Public Distribution System of the government which supplies 35kgs of rice per month at a subsidised rate of Rs.2/kg has contributed to regular consumption of rice by the Konda Reddi households. Consequently, this has led to dietary changes with rice replacing mixed millet intake. These changes induced by the state will eventually threaten the nutritional security of the Konda Reddis leading further to the appropriation of their bio-diverse cultivation making them vulnerable in many ways.

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Satheesh Periyapatna, Director of Deccan Development Society, Pastapur
Centre-Staging the Marginalised: Millets into India’s Public Food Policy

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Mythri Prasad, Post-doctoral student, French Institute of Pondicherry
Class and caste through the lens of food: Migrant workers in Kerala

Migration engenders diverse food practices that act as markers of identity of different ethnic and caste groups. It is intimately connected to leisure and community formation among immigrants. It can also become a locus of conflict in the context of its availability and distribution in work sites. In this paper, I examine the various ways in which the identities of religion and caste that are mobilized in the recruitment process of workers reappear as food practices in the destination. It shows the ways in which stigma and perceptions associated with certain castes persist and are used in a systematic manner to mark them in these new work places. However, practices and institutions that have solidified around food consumption also mediate resistance of workers against exploitation by employers and state power. It is in this matrix of power, worker agency and resistance that food needs to be placed in order to understand its social significance in the context of migration. The paper is based on field work among migrant workers from North and North Eastern India who do manual work in construction sites and factories in Kerala, South India.

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Sadhana Rajkumar, Diet and Fitness Consultant, Chennai

*Good Diet and Nutrition for promotion of health and prevention of diseases (with special focus on diabetes and mental health)*

The talk will cover the reasons for the prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer, hypertension, obesity, and how they can be prevented through good nutrition. It will also address how foods we eat notably by the exclusion of certain food groups affect the mental health of an individual. The entire talk will be on a preventive and promotive angle.

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Vandhana Ramadurai, Doctoral candidate, Department of communication at Texas A&M University, US

*Application of the Culturally Sensitive Model of Health Communication to understand health and hunger issues in an Indian slum*

What does it mean to be a food insecure woman in an Indian slum and what are the factors that make some women more food insecure than others in an Indian slum? The discussion of these questions during the conference will guide interdisciplinary dialogue on gendered food insecurity away from just political and economic factors to a discussion on the social, cultural, environmental factors that exacerbate and alleviate food insecurity in an Indian slum. The discussion will also show how a communication perspective can add to existing conversations on food insecurity by introducing a Culturally Sensitive Model of health communication (Sharf & Kahler, 1996).

The Culturally Sensitive Model consists of five layers of meaning that systematically guide analysis of health contexts. Research questions proposed in each of the layers examine corresponding aspects of food insecurity. For example, the *Ideological layer* examines how neo-liberal policies create the conditions of slum food insecurity. The *Sociopolitical layer* uncovers the social, cultural, environmental, and health related factors that create disparities in food security. The *Institutional layer* helps document how NGOs within the slum simultaneously constrain and enable women’s access to food. The *Ethnocultural layer* understands how food is an integral component to women’s networks and helps with building a slum culture rich in social capital that helps with food insecurity. The *Individual layer* explains how the role of women in the procurement and processing of food both empowers and disempowers them in the context of the slum. The model also helps the researcher identify the problems associated with each of the levels and specify the necessary solutions.

All examples and data shared during the conference presentation will come from freshly collected data in the Rajendra Nagar slum located in Bangalore, India. The presenter will
be collecting data for her dissertation using an ethnographic approach (participant observations and in-depth interviews) starting February 2012. This discussion will contribute to existing conversations on food insecurity and will be an opportunity for the presenter to gain further insight.

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Paul Sounderapandian, User Survivor, Wisdom Hospital, Chennai
Substance Abuse Disorders – A user – survivor perspective

The talk will focus on how substance abuse disorders affect families, and in turn, the community, from a user-survivor perspective. It is done as a personal narrative, of an individual who overcame this difficulty.

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Salamatou Sow, Pr of ethnolinguistic, University of Abdou at Niamey, Niger
Kosam ja‘banii gawri, ‘the milk supplement millet’ Food practices and representations in Peuls of Sahel

The Sahel, the transition region between the Sahara desert in the North and the Sudanian Savannas in the South in sub-Saharan Africa, is characterized by scattered vegetation and a rainy season from July to September. It is an important zone for the cultivation of millet, and of livestock farming, notably zebras, goats, sheep, and camels. Peuls, who make up an important community in the Sahel region, are the main zebu breeders. They consider zebu milk as the best food and consume it in large quantity, plain, fermented or mixed with cereals, notably, to millet. Milk and millet form the preferred food which provides good health and energy, and their consumption participates to the Peul identity. This high value is expressed at key periods: when a baby is just born, one says to the parents: Allah wuurnu ngawri e kosam, ‘God, provides millet and milk!’; when a very old person with all his physical and mental faculties dies, Peuls say: Omo mawni mbusam, kosam wojjini gi‘e makko, ‘His marrow is strong, it is the milk which has reddened his bones’.

In this paper, I will document the Peul food and ritual practices linked to the milk and the millet, then I will analyse the medicinal and nutritional qualities attributed to them by Peuls. Finally, I will discuss the patrimony status of these two food items considered as good for health. Thanks to the nutritional qualities of milk and millet, the Peuls’ diet may be a good food pattern to adopt in order to improve the food security of African countries which have to face food change issues responsible for the development of metabolic diseases and malnutrition.

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V.Raji Sugumar, Associate professor, Bharatidassan women college, Pondicherry
R. Srinivasan Associate Professor, Dept of Econometrics, University of Madras.

Dietary Transition and Life Style Disorders: Counteracting the Hypocratic Maxim

This paper is set to address the issues of shift in food habits and its resulting lifestyle disorders. The capital-intensive production techniques in agriculture and industry, and the mechanization of service delivery, result in sedentary lifestyle. We find that in the developing world, the traditional food intake consisting of cereals, vegetables and fruits, is now being replaced with the one rich in fats and sweeteners. The staggering statistics issued by the FAO which state that 36% of urban Indians get their energy from fatty foods, endorses this fact. This ‘nutrition transition’ is the result of a change in lifestyle and the associated global impact on socio-cultural changes and economic conditions. This nutrition transition, accompanied by sedentary lifestyle, leads to rising rates of overweight people, obesity and diet-related chronic diseases, like heart disease, diabetes and some cancers. Moreover, by radically altering the nature of agro-food systems, globalization is also altering the quantity, type, cost and desirability of foods available for consumption. Alongside, the ‘slimming culture’ leads to the intake of very low calorie diets, appetite suppressants, and compulsory starvation. This leads to another set of lifestyle disorders such as nutritional anemia, low resting metabolism and the likes. These in turn alter the physiological composition of the body which is the basic indicator for morbid conditions. Thus, a dual burden of under-nutrition and over-nutrition, with the wrong choice of food intake incongruent to our climatic conditions, nature of work, and the genotype, goes against the dictum of Hippocrates "Your Food Will Be Your Remedy". We need a new public policy that institutionalizes appropriate food habits such as controlling irresponsible food advertisements, popularizing nutrition knowledge, imbibing positive lifestyle with more physical activities, supplying fresh healthy food items in institutionalized canteens and other points of purchase which would work in favour of controlling the burden of lifestyle disorders.

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A. Shahin Sultana, Reader, Dept. of Social Work, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry

Mainstreaming Early and Exclusive Breastfeeding for ensuring Child’s Mental health, Health and Survival

The Millenium Development Goals (MDG) adopted by 147 heads of state in 2001 pose a serious challenge as it has to address the world’s most staggering health and poverty issues. Meeting the respective goals is even more distressing since the indicators are
mostly associated with maternal and child health. The situation of children in most of the countries on the global front is not laudable with the current trends of inflation, failing economies and rising inequities and poverty. In India – the most densely child populated country in the world - the situation is even alarming with its existing and upcoming challenges. Children below eighteen years constitute forty per cent of India’s population out of which children below six years are 16 per cent. In this scenario, the Infant and Child Mortality rates, Maternal Mortality rates, Maternal and Child Health components, Nutrition and Anemia status are disappointing. A close look at the NFHS Surveys of all the Indian states shall provide us with the hard core realities of the indicators affecting breastfeeding and the stumbling blocks in achieving the MDG Goals.

In this context, the paper shall a) Critically examine the status of breastfeeding across the country b) Discuss the Policies, Programmes and Legislations facilitating early and exclusive breastfeeding practices and their shortcomings, c) Support with review the positive impact of early and exclusive breastfeeding on child’s mental health, health and survival, d) Substantiate hands on experience while working with communities, several breastfeeding promotion networks and other bodies and e) suggest suitable interventions towards mainstreaming.

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Renu Weiss, Physician, The Banyan, Chennai

*Physical Health and Mental Health – (Interlinkages)*

Physical health can certainly impact mental health, especially when physical health declines or is affected in any way. Based on some case studies of patients who are accommodated by the Banyan, my presentation will show how their physical illness has affected their mental condition.

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Salome Yesudas B., Project coordinator, Deccan Development Society DDS, Pastapur

*Programme to revival the dalit traditional food system in Medak (Andhra Pradesh)*

The dalit traditional food system in the Zaheerabad region of the Medak district, Andhra Pradesh, India, has survived largely as a result of the conservation and continuation of the rich agro-biodiversity by women, which not only yields high-quality food and medicine for humans, but also for animals, and favours the fertility of soil which hosts nutritious and wild plants. The dalit food list includes an extensive variety of cereals, millets, pulses, oil seeds, fruits, vegetables, greens, roots and tubers (329 species/varieties).
A study was taken up during two seasons in 2003 to find out the nutritional status of Dalit mother-child pairs from 19 villages in the Medak District of Andhra Pradesh state. These villages are characterized by the support of a local NGO DDS which encourages households to use or reuse their wasteland for producing a wide variety of traditional food. The findings of the survey have provided evidence that the program has enabled to increase the quality of the diet of villagers. Although the research was conducted in a specific region, in one rural area in South India, and the collected data represent nutritional data for the poorest segment of the population, these findings support the idea of using the traditional food system as the first step to ensure a long term increase in food security and overall quality of the diet. This approach can be applied in other rural regions of the world.

NOTES ON PARTICIPANTSS

Anbu Durai ????

Alain Clément is lecturer at the department of Economics, University Francois Rabelais of Tours, France. He is involved in the LEA (L’Equipe Alimentation) programme located at the University Francois Rabelais. His research area concerns the history of Food Security in the West. He is the author of several books among them Nourrir le peuple, Entre État et marché, contribution à l’histoire intellectuelle de l’approvisionnement alimentaire (Providing food to people: between State and the market, contribution to the intellectual development of food supply) (1999; Paris: l’Harmattan), and of around thirty articles in French and International journals. clement@univ-tours.fr

Louise Borst and Gifta Priya Manohari

Louise Borst is currently based in Vellore writing thesis for her MSc. in Anthropology for University of Copenhagen, Denmark. During 2008 and 2011 she conducted ethnographic fieldwork on lay perceptions and management of type-2 diabetes in the rural areas around Vellore, Tamil Nadu in collaboration with the Community Health Department of Christian Medical College Vellore.
Her research interests are centred on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, especially the social aspects of management of chronic so-called ‘lifestyle’ diseases, such as diabetes, cardiovascular and respiratory conditions, and cancer.

**Gifta Priya Manohari** is MsW from Sacred Heart College Tirupattur, University of Madras. She has been working as a social worker and counsellor at the Community Health & Development Hospital, CMC, for the past six years. She teaches sociology and Participatory Rural Appraisal methods to M.B.B.S students. Through her work with the department she has collaborated on and facilitated a number of research projects on various aspects of community health within the villages and rural areas of Vellore District. Their current study is conducted with Louise Borst and Gifta Priya Manohari as co-investigators under the guidance of Dr. Shantidani Minz, Faculty of Community Health, CMC.

**Susan Bose** I have done my Master's in Dietetics and Food Service Management and have worked as a clinical dietician/public health nutritionist for about 12 years in Madurai and in New Delhi. I switched to the field of clinical research and am currently working with a major Clinical Research Organization (CRO) as a project manager.

**Tristan Fournier** is a postdoctoral researcher in sociology at the University of Toulouse-Le Mirail (France). My work is mainly focused on eating choices and food changes, and questions the role of the socio-cultural dimensions of food in different topics such as chronic diseases (hypercholesterolemia, Alzheimer Disease) and sanitary crisis (Avian Influenza). My PhD, entitled “A sociology of eating choices. The dietary compliance for hypercholesterolemic eaters”, advocates an interactionist approach of eating behaviors. I currently lead a qualitative study that aims at understanding the step by step taking care process for cholesterol reduction in French people. I also give some lectures in sociology (food, health and family) at the University of Toulouse-Le Mirail (France) and in food sociology at the University of Social and Human Sciences of Hanoï (Vietnam).

**Gayatri ???**
Mohamed Houbaida’s research area concerns history of food, agricultural practices and food heritage of Morocco. More specifically, his research is based on the involuntary vegetarianism during colonial period in Magreb. He is the coordinator of the Unesco chair ‘Sauvegarde et valorisation des patrimoines culturels alimentaires’ and is the head of the historical studies in the University Ibn Tofail. houbaidamohamed@yahoo.fr

Sanjeev Jain did his post-graduate studies in psychiatry at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore where he now teaches. He is the head of the Molecular Genetics Laboratory at the Department of Psychiatry at NIMHAMS. He is also interested in the establishment and development of psychiatry in Bangalore, on which he wrote several articles.

Ajeet Jaiswal is assistant professor at the department of Anthropology, University of Pondicherry. His research focuses on the occupational hazards and public health which involve the study of various aspects of the health sector (ecological conditions; working conditions in industries; work format and safety measures; demographic information, occupational health analysis, nutritional survey; anthropological and physiological analysis; family planning programs). He is the author of “Anthropo-Medical Profile of Textiles Workers” (New Delhi, Alfa publication, 2012) and of about ten papers published in national and international journals and books. rgajeet@gmail.com

Mira Kandar is a senior fellow at the World Policy Institute, New York, where she is an International Affairs Expert for subjects such as U.S. Foreign Policy, India, Indian Diaspora, South Asia, France, Equity and Sustainability, Food Security, Global Warming, Globalization, Minority Integration, U.S.-India Relations, Transatlantic Relations. She is conducting independent research and writing (books, articles, opinions) and expert commentary for print and broadcast media. She also organizes public and private seminars and roundtable meetings on various topics in international affairs. She is teaching in PRIAS (Pôle de Recherches sur l'Inde et l'Asie du sud) at CERIUM (Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches Internationales at the Université de Montréal). She is a co-director with Christophe Jaffrelot (CERI / Sciences Po) and Karine Bates (Université de Montréal) of the Summer University India. Teach courses concern India’s
Diaspora, Sustainable Development, Indian Contemporary Literature, Indian Media. She is the author of Planet India.

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**Sunil Kumar** is practicing Clinical Psychologist in Chennai and Pudhucherry since from 2002. Passed out from the Clinical Psychology course in Kasturba Medical college, Manipal, India. I worked as a child psychologist in Government General Hospital, Pudhucherry from 2002 to 2009. Currently working for Wisdom hospitals and Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospital in Chennai. Authored around 80 articles in Tamil magazine (Nakkeeran).

**Thanuja Mummidi:** After completing her PhD research on the social organization of the Konda Reddis of Andhra Pradesh, from Madras University, Thanuja Mummidi was awarded the Urgent Anthropology Fellowship by the RAI. She later collaborated with the Rural Employment and Microfinance (RUME) programme of the IFP. She also coordinated a project on ‘Forms of Money with the Konda Reddis’ funded by the Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion, UCI, Irvine before before joining the Center for the Study of Social Exclusion (Pondicherry University) in 2009 as faculty.

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**Satheesh Periyapatna** is one of the founder members of Deccan Development Society (DDS) and has been associated with the organization for the last 25 years. He is the National Convenor of two major networks: Southern Action on Genetic Engineering, a South India wide network of over 60 organisations, scientists, farmers and consumer groups and Millet Network of India [an alliance of over 140 organisations of farmers, scientists, nutritionists, environmentalists and consumers. MINI works in 17 Indian states]. He has been one of the important spokespersons for the civil society in India on the issues of gender and food security, ecological agriculture and genetic engineering in agriculture. He has either initiated or been a key member of a number of networks on food security, participation, ecological agriculture which fight against genetic engineering, globalization, WTO, TRIPs and such other inequitable international treaties. He is the South Asia Coordinator Alliance for Democratising Agricultural Research [ADARSA] which aims to understand how in small farmers’ perspectives agricultural research should be led in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka. He has also initiated and convenes AP Alliance for Food Sovereignty and Alliance Food
Sovereignty South Asia. He was formerly the Chair of GRAIN, an international organization working on Biodiversity. He has been a member of the core group that steered India’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and currently a member of the AP State Biodiversity Board.

Satheesh Periyapatna writes widely on food and farming in India particularly on issues of food sovereignty. He has co-authored many books including Food Sovereignty and Uncultivated Biodiversity in South Asia, Affirming Life and Diversity, Rural Images and Voices on Food Sovereignty in South India, Crops of Truth, Farmers Perception of Biodiversity. He has also scripted, directed and produced a number of films on the traditions in Indian agriculture, seed keeping, NRM, healthcare etc. He has done films on participatory methodologies. He has pioneered in setting up Community Media Trust in DDS which has produced a series of films on Bt Cotton, Genetic Engineering, Ecological Agriculture and related issues.


Sadhana Rajkumar is a diet and fitness consultant. She is also a certified fitness consultant. Her core interests concern diabetes and fitness. She was awarded a citation and medal for a project on “The Nutritional status of drug addicts”. She have done diet analysis and counselling for more than 30,000 patients in a career span of 10 yrs.

Vandhana Ramadurai is a fourth year doctoral candidate in the department of communication at Texas A&M University. Her work lies at the intersection of public health, health communication, and food security studies. Her dissertation
involves using a feminist perspective to understand how structural and cultural factors alleviate and exacerbate food insecurity among women in an Indian slum. Some of her other work includes working with underserved populations in rural United States to understand the consequences of food insecurity and the coping strategies. 

Paul Sounderapandian ??

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