Indigenous Food Sovereignty in North America
Submission deadline: January 15, 2019

The Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development and the Journal of American Indian Education jointly seek manuscripts and commentaries on practice-relevant and pedagogical research related to Indigenous food sovereignty issues, especially Tribal and government policy, grassroots community organizing, culturally defined foods and practices, and the transfer of Indigenous knowledge. See the full announcement and a PDF for sharing and posting HERE.

This special issue draws attention to the roles and responsibilities of knowledge producers, knowledge keepers, and food systems actors in managing and enhancing access to culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods in Indigenous communities in North America (all the regions and subregions, both geographic and cultural, in Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the U.S.).

Seeking empirical, theoretical, or pedagogical contributions from academics and practitioners that inform policy and practice. Manuscripts documenting interagency and/or nation-to-nation collaboration, as well as collaboration among public, nonprofit, private enterprises, and scholar/practitioner co-partners are encouraged. Comparative work that includes other regions of the Global North and Global South, if the comparison features a North American Indigenous community, will also be accepted. Manuscripts closely examining processes as well as those that interrogate a failed or struggling policy, program, or project can also be very instructive. Areas of interest include but are not limited to:

- Inclusion (or exclusion) of Indigenous groups in local/regional government food systems planning, policy, and governance processes.
- Inclusion of Indigenous language revitalization for food system initiatives.
- Preparation, adoption, and/or implementation of formal plans to strengthen Indigenous food systems through Indigenous value systems.
- Focus on the role of food and traditional foods (including wild) in Indigenous sovereignty/self-determination.
• Creation, modification, and/or implementation of agriculture, health, land-use, zoning, or public safety ordinances or bylaws to increase opportunities for or remove barriers to local/regional food production and/or food access in Indigenous communities.
• Creation of governmental (Tribal, state, and federal) incentives for Indigenous food system expansion and/or long-term resilience.
• Support of or for the development community food initiatives (e.g., a shared-use kitchen, farm incubator, or farm-to-school program) in, with, and for Indigenous communities.
• Plans or case studies for continued, multigenerational participation in cultural/traditional harvesting strategies at the individual, family, community, and regional levels.
• The building of leadership or capacity among and with Indigenous food systems stakeholders.
• Plans or case studies for the reclamation of first foods, traditional diets, and Indigenous modes of food production.
• Identification of the impacts of climate change on first foods, Indigenous crops, gathering/hunting sites, and the retention of traditional knowledge.
• Expanded definitions of food systems education and pedagogies that include or elevate Indigenous knowledge and value systems, and include transfer of knowledge as well as larger questions of pedagogy.
• Retention of traditional values in a nontraditional but Indigenous-controlled food system.

Emerging scholars to submit manuscripts and practitioners are especially encouraged to submit commentaries. Additional support is available for free through JAFSCD’s Author Mentoring Program. Authors whose native language is not English should consider assistance from JAFSCD’s Consulting Editor Program. Indicate your interest via the JAFSCD query form.

In addition, JAFSCD welcomes articles at any time on any subject related to the development aspects of agriculture and food systems. See the JAFSCD website at www.FoodSystemsJournal.org

Please note: as a means of informing the work of researchers and students, and sharing information among Tribal groups, NGOs, and agencies, nonacademic practitioners and professionals in the field are encouraged to submit brief commentaries (up to 1,500 words) reflecting opportunities, challenges, successes, and failures in their indigenous food sovereignty work. These will be published along with peer-reviewed research papers.

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