

ANEL GUEL

MSU DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

RICH PIROG

MSU CENTER FOR REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

# AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON STRUCTURAL RACISM PRESENT IN THE U.S. FOOD SYSTEM



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## > AUTHORS



**Anel Guel**  
Graduate Student  
Department of Community Sustainability  
Michigan State University



**Rich Pirog**  
Senior Associate Director  
Center for Regional Food Systems  
Michigan State University  
[rpirog@msu.edu](mailto:rpirog@msu.edu)

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For more information, contact Rich Pirog, MSU Center for Regional Food Systems, at [rpirog@msu.edu](mailto:rpirog@msu.edu).

## ➤ INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this annotated bibliography is to provide current research and outreach on structural racism in the U.S. food system for the food system practitioner, researcher, and educator.

The following is an annotated bibliography on selected resources and publications focused on structural racism in the U.S. food system. Structural racism in the U.S. has been defined as the “normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics – historical, cultural, institutional and interpersonal – that routinely advantage whites while producing cumulative and chronic outcomes for people of color”<sup>1</sup>.

Our intention was to look at literature that broadly covered structural racism across the entire food supply chain as well as to examine specific sectors of the chain. We also identified literature that links the social construction of whiteness<sup>2</sup> and its intentional or consequential impact on structural racism within the United States’ local food movement. We intentionally focused on recent peer-reviewed and grey literature materials that are more national in scope; we also concentrated on materials that included significant references. Blog posts and news or media articles are not included in this bibliography; however, these writings contribute to the discussion on structural racism in the food system and should be part of a more comprehensive education program on this topic.

The purpose of this annotated bibliography is to provide current research and outreach on structural racism in the U.S. food system for the food system practitioner, researcher, and educator. Our intention is to update this resource on a recurring basis and use it as a companion resource for training or education sessions on structural racism in the food system.

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<sup>1</sup> Lawrence, K., & Keleher, T. (2004). Structural racism. Prepared for the 2004 Race and Public Policy Conference. Retrieved from <http://www.intergroupresources.com/rc/Definitions%20of%20Racism.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Guess, T. J. (2006). The social construction of whiteness: Racism by intent, racism by consequence. *Critical Sociology*, 32(4), 649–673.

## » ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Alkon, A. H. (2012). *Black, white, and green: Farmers markets, race, and the green economy*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.

Highlights the dimensions of class and race within farmers markets and the green economy.

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Alkon, A. H., & Agyeman, J. (2011). *Cultivating food justice: Race, class, and sustainability*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Explores the interplay between race and class and the food system; the book's 15 chapters outline these distinctions along the supply chain from production to consumption.

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Alkon, A., & Norgaard, K. (2009). Breaking the food chains: An investigation of food justice activism. *Sociological Inquiry*, 79(3), 289–305. [doi:10.1111/j.1475-682X.2009.00291.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1475-682X.2009.00291.x)

Develops the concept of food justice and bridges this to activism on sustainable agriculture, food insecurity, and environmental justice.

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Ammons, S. (2014). *Shining a light in dark places: Raising up the work of Southern women of color in the food system*. Retrieved from <http://www.centerforsocialinclusion.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Shining-a-Light-in-Dark-Places-A-Policy-Brief.pdf>

Describes, through interviews, the realities of current and past food system experiences from the perspective of Southern women of color.

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Anguelovski, I. (2014) Alternative food provision conflicts in cities: Contesting food privilege, injustice, and whiteness in Jamaica Plain, Boston. *Geoforum* 58 (2015) 184-194. [doi:10.1016/j.geoforum.2014.10.014](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2014.10.014)

Examines how Latino residents experience, think about and address new exclusionary practices in the space of alternative food activism in Boston.

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Baker, E. A., Schootman, M., Barnidge, E., & Kelly, C. (2006). The role of race and poverty in access to foods that enable individuals to adhere to dietary guidelines. *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 3(3), A76.

This study addresses the question of whether all communities have equal access to foods in order to make healthy dietary choices.

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Barker, C., Francois, A., Goodman, R., & Hussain, E. (2012). *Unshared bounty: How structural racism contributes to the creation and persistence of food deserts*. Retrieved from

<http://www.racialjusticeproject.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2012/06/NYLS-Food-Deserts-Report.pdf>

An analysis of the dimensions of structural racism and how it helps create and sustain U.S. food deserts.

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Bauer, M., & Ramirez, M. (2010). *Injustice on our plates: Immigrant women in the U.S. food industry*. Retrieved from

[http://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/downloads/publication/Injustice\\_on\\_Our\\_Plates.pdf](http://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/downloads/publication/Injustice_on_Our_Plates.pdf)

A report focused on Latina women and their contribution to the U.S. food supply chain.

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Bauer, M., & Stewart, M. (2013). *Close to slavery: Guestworker programs in the United States*. Retrieved from

<http://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/downloads/publication/SPLC-Close-to-Slavery-2013.pdf>

A report delving into the intricacies of the H-2 program, a federal program that allows foreign workers rightful employment under various farm-related jobs.

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Billings, D., & Cabbil, L. (2011). Food justice: What's race got to do with it? *Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts*, 5(1), 103–112.

Discusses the various ways that race shapes people's lives, including racialized outcomes of food production, processing, and consumption.

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Bowens, N. (2015). *The color of food: Stories of race, resilience and farming*. Gabriola Island, Canada: New Society Publishers.

A set of stories that focus on U.S. Black, Latino, Native, and Asian farmers.

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Brewster, Z., & Lynn, M. (2010). Race relations in the hospitality industry: Key issues for theory building and testing. Retrieved from [http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/58498\\_CQ\\_Research\\_Curation\\_race\\_relations.pdf](http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/58498_CQ_Research_Curation_race_relations.pdf)

A curation of five articles documenting evidence of racism in U.S. restaurant industry.

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Carrasquillo, N. (2011). Race and ethnicity from the point of view of farm workers in the food system. *Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts*, 5(1), 121–131.

Provides an analysis of U.S. agriculture and Latino farm workers and the obstacles the workers confront within the food system. The author draws from his experiences working with CATA (El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas, or the Farmworkers Support Committee).

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Center for Social Inclusion. (2013). *Immediate policy opportunities for an equitable and sustainable food system*. Retrieved from <http://www.centerforsocialinclusion.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Food-Equity-Policy-Opportunity-Document-2013.pdf>

Provides a set of policy recommendations for President Obama's administration that will build equity and sustainability for all in the U.S. food system

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Etmanski, C. (2012). A critical race and class analysis of learning in the organic farming movement. *Australian Journal of Adult Learning*, 52(3), 484–506.

Provides a useful literature review on antiracist food scholarship and analyzes the benefits of linking organic farming work to indigenous food sovereignty.

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Flora, J.L., Emery, M., Thompson, D., Prado-Meza, C.M., & Flora, C.B. (2011). New Immigrants in local food systems: Two Iowa cases. *Int. Journal. Of Sociology Of Agr. & Food*, 19(1), 119-134.

These case studies focus on the process of working with recent Latino immigrants in farmer trainings. The outside organizers inadvertently strengthened a culture of whiteness, as they did not share the same goals as the Latino immigrant participants.

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Foley, K., Goodman, T., & McElroy, B. (2012). *Bridging the gaps: Funding and social equity across the food system supply chain*. Retrieved from <http://rsfsocialfinance.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/08/Rockefeller-Paper.pdf>

A report using an equity lens to examine the funding behind projects and programs related to food.

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Food Chain Workers Alliance. (2012). *The hands that feed us: Challenges and opportunities for workers along the food chain*. Retrieved from <http://foodchainworkers.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Hands-That-Feed-Us-Report.pdf>

This report takes a look behind occupations in the U.S. food industry: farm workers (production), slaughterhouse and other processing facilities workers (processing), warehouse workers (distribution), grocery store workers (retail), and restaurant and food service workers (service).

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Freeman, A. (2013). The unbearable whiteness of milk: Food oppression and the USDA. *UC Irvine Law Review*, 3(4), 1251–1279.

Explores the concept of food oppression through the USDA's role in the milk industry.

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Giancattarino, A., & Noor, S. (2014). *Building the case for racial equity in the food system*. Retrieved from <http://www.centerforsocialinclusion.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Building-the-Case-for-Racial-Equity-in-the-Food-System.pdf>

Presents the multi-institutional racial inequalities in the food system and looks at access, production, and distribution and labor and affordability.

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Gilbert, J., Sharp, G., & Felin, M. S. (2002). The loss and persistence of black-owned farms and farmland: A review of the research literature and its implications. *Southern Rural Sociology*, 18(2), 1–30.

A review of 115 sources since 1971 outlining research on black farms and land loss.

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Gottlieb, R., & Joshi, A. (2010). *Food justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Opens up the dialogue behind food justice, taking a closer look at the history and current attempts to change the system.

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Guthman, J. (2008). Bringing good food to others: Investigating the subjects of alternative food practice. *Cultural Geographies*, 15(4), 431–447.

Argues how projects aiming at bringing “good food” to others often reflect the “white desires” of the creators of the projects rather than the communities served.

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Guthman, J. (2008). "If they only knew": Color blindness and universalism in California alternative food institutions. *The Professional Geographer*, 60(3), 387–397.

This study surveyed managers of farmers markets and community-supported agricultural enterprises and found a general discomfort and an "if they only knew" approach to the lack of involvement of minorities within the local food movement.

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Harris, A. G., Henderson, G. R., & Williams, J. D. (2005). Courting customers: Assessing consumer racial profiling and other marketplace discrimination. *Journal of Public Policy & Marketing*, 24(1), 163–171.

Examines federal court cases that address marketplace racial discrimination and accompanying legal issues and relevant legislation.

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Henderson, E., & Spula, J. B. (2011). Building the movement: Labor in the Northeast food system. Retrieved from <http://nesawg.org/sites/default/files/WorkersintheNEFoodSystemOct2011.pdf>

A look into the role food system workers, farmers, and farm workers play in the United States' Northeastern food system.

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Herman, L., Goldberger, A. O., & Albright, R. (2012). *Social and economic equity in U.S. food and agriculture systems*. Rockefeller Foundation.

A report outlining the interplay between good food, good jobs, and race throughout the entire value chain, including production, processing, distribution, retail, and waste.

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Holt-Giménez, E., & Wang, Y. (2011). Reform or transformation? The pivotal role of food justice in the U.S. food movement. *Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts*, 5(1), 83–102.

Summarizes the concept of food justice and its role in influencing food systems change.

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Kelly, M., Lang, H., Bhandal, G., & Electris, C. (2012). *Worker equity in food and agriculture: Practices at the 100 largest and most influential U.S. companies*. Retrieved from [http://www.sustainalytics.com/sites/default/files/workerequity\\_october2012.pdf](http://www.sustainalytics.com/sites/default/files/workerequity_october2012.pdf)

Specifically looks at the concept of worker equity within the food and agriculture industry. The report uses the top 100 U.S. companies in food and agriculture as a way to analyze worker oversight and disclosure, equity policies and practices, compensation, health and safety, supply chain worker treatment, and access to healthy, affordable, and sustainable food.

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Liu, Y. Y. (2012). *Good food and good jobs for all: Challenges and opportunities to advance racial and economic equity in the food system*. Retrieved from <https://www.raceforward.org/research/reports/food-justice>

Summarizes “good food” and “good jobs,” two movements that function parallel to one another, although the lack of both good food and good jobs negatively impacts communities of color. The report suggests that food and labor groups actually have fundamental shared interests and should work together.

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Loewen, S.C. 2013. White food, Black spaces: Food, privilege, and gentrification in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. *Senior Capstone Projects*. Paper 243. Retrieved from: [http://digitalwindow.vassar.edu/senior\\_capstone](http://digitalwindow.vassar.edu/senior_capstone)

Examines how access and acceptance to good quality food is shaped and changed through the process of gentrification.

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Mares, T. M., & Alkon, A. (2011). Mapping the food movement: Addressing inequality and neoliberalism. *Environment and Society: Advances in Research*, 2(1), 68–86.

Brings together academic literature centered on food and addresses racial and class inequalities as well as the concept of neoliberalism in the food system.

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McCullen, C. G. (2009). *Why are all the white kids sitting together in the farmers market? Whiteness in the Davis Farmers Market and alternative agrifood movement* (Master's thesis). Retrieved from [http://books.google.com/books/about/Why\\_are\\_All\\_the\\_White\\_Kids\\_Sitting\\_Toget.html?id=fJlw2qInflEC](http://books.google.com/books/about/Why_are_All_the_White_Kids_Sitting_Toget.html?id=fJlw2qInflEC)

Addresses the whiteness that is socio-spatially created in farmers markets in Central Valley, California.

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Meals, K. (2012). Nurturing the seeds of food justice: Unearthing the impact of institutionalized racism on access to healthy food in urban African-American communities. *The Scholar*, 15(1), 97–138.

Examines inequalities in the food system and particularly notes the impacts they bring to urban African-American communities.

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Mercier, S. (2014). *Employing agriculture: How the Midwest farm and food sector relies on immigrant labor*. Retrieved from [http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/sites/default/files/Midwest\\_Ag\\_final.pdf](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/sites/default/files/Midwest_Ag_final.pdf)

Demonstrates the important role agriculture plays in the Midwestern economy and argues that the United States' current immigration policies fail to serve the needs of the agriculture sector, including year-round immigrant labor in crop and livestock production as well as agricultural processing, handling, and manufacturing.

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Pirog, R., Miller, C., Way, L., Hazekamp, C., & Kim, E. (2014). *The local food movement: Setting the stage for good food*. Retrieved from <http://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/local-food-movement-setting-the-stage>

Contains a timeline that re-examines the evolution of the local food movement in the U.S. in the context of the four elements of good food: healthy, fair, affordable, and “green.”

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Slocum, R. (2006). Anti-racist practice and the work of community food organizations. *Antipode*, 38(2), 327–349.

Speaks about the unacknowledged white privilege behind community food organizations where whiteness needs to be critically analyzed, particularly when working on projects that impact communities of color.

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Slocum, R. (2007). Whiteness, space and alternative food practice. *Geoforum*, 38(3), 520–533.

The author uses feminist and materialist theories to look behind progressive or liberal whiteness around the United States’ local and organic food movement and implications for communities of color.

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Sundance Institute. (2015, February 2). *Man in the maze* [Video file]. Retrieved from <https://vimeo.com/116890818>

This short film looks at the food system present in Arizona and other U.S. borderlands. Here, a diverse group of people come together and mitigate challenges the food system presents via food banks and community and home gardening.

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Tiarachristie, G.C. (2013) Race, class, and food justice in South Allison Hill, Pa. *Dickinson College Honors Theses*. Retrieved from [http://scholar.dickinson.edu/student\\_honors/53/](http://scholar.dickinson.edu/student_honors/53/)

This study uses qualitative analysis to explore the race-class tensions around food and gardening in a low-income urban neighborhood in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

