

INDIAN AMERICA'S MATERIAL ORIGINS

Joyce E. Chaplin

James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History





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“Jane”









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WHY *NOT* DO FOOD HISTORY?



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WHY *NOT* DO FOOD HISTORY?

1. Because it would mean you're a material determinist.

WHY *NOT* DO FOOD HISTORY?

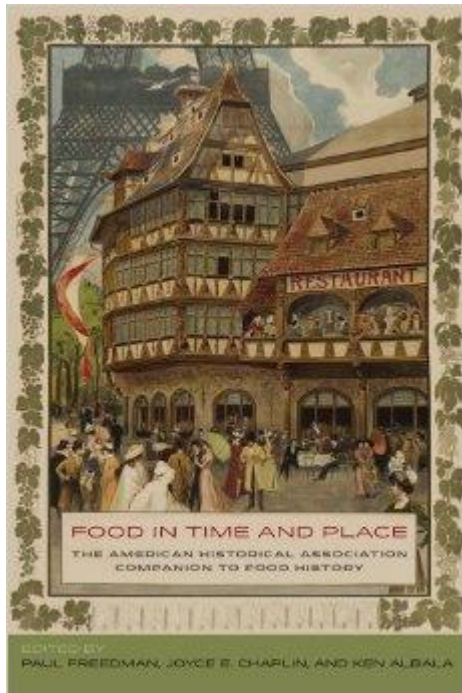
1. Because it would mean you're a material determinist.
2. Because "it" (meaning culinary history) is a frivolous topic, associated with pleasure, privilege—and women.

WHY *NOT* DO FOOD HISTORY?

1. Because it must mean you're a material determinist.
2. Because "it" (meaning culinary history) is a frivolous topic, associated with pleasure, privilege—and women.
3. Because America had plenty of food, why bother?

My recent food-related research

“Just out



“Forthcoming:

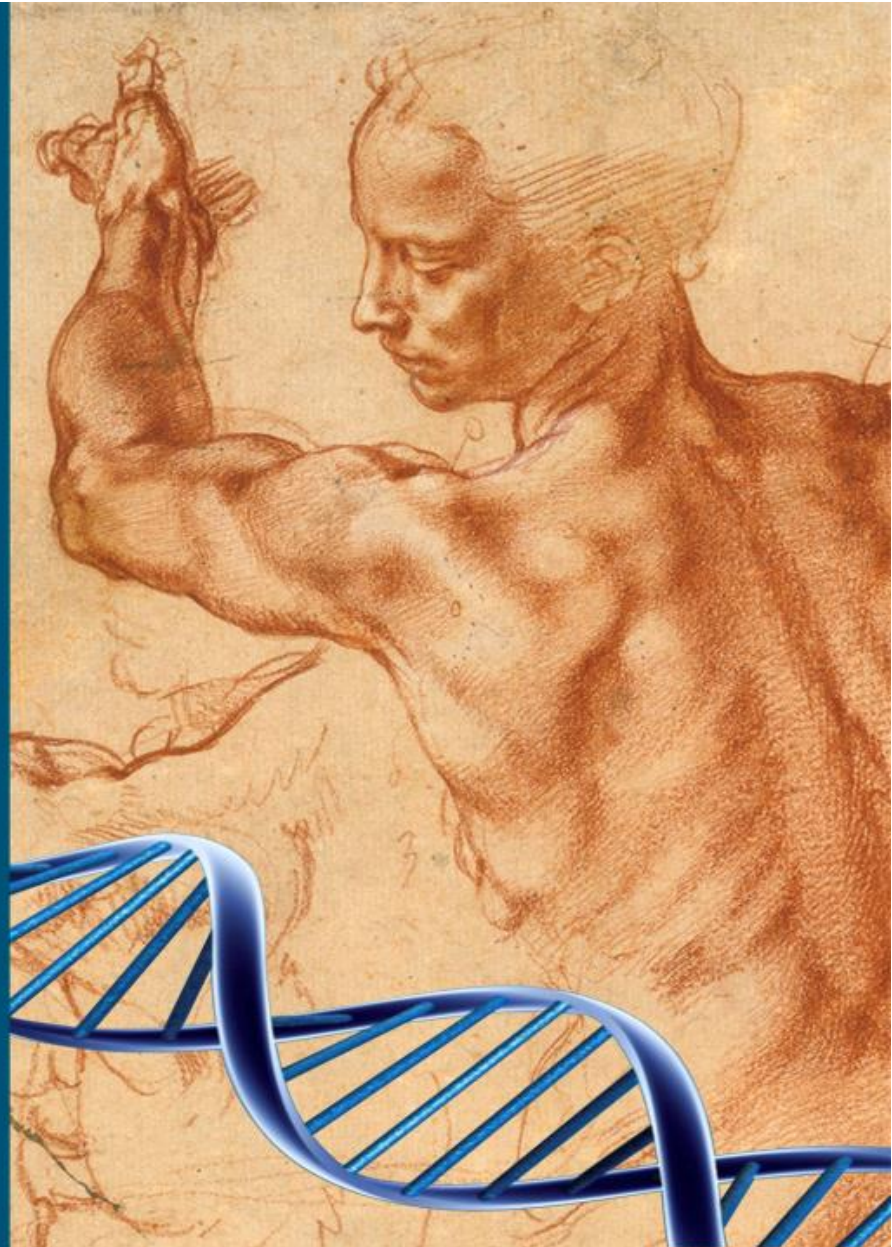
With Alison Bashford,
*The New Worlds of
Thomas Robert Malthus*
(Princeton: PUP, 2016).

The Initiative for the Science of the Human Past at Harvard

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

“The Encounter of
Science and History”

Friday, November 1, 2013



FEEDING KANSAS: FAMINE AND RELIEF IN CONTESTED TERRITORY”

THERESA MCCULLA, “REPRESENTING MODERN NEW ORLEANS: FOOD AND
THE EVOLUTION OF THE MULTIETHNIC CITY”

NICHOLAS CRAWFORD, “FEEDING SLAVERY: SCARCITY, SUBSISTENCE, AND
THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN, C. 1783-1825”

CARLA CEVASCO, “FEAST, FAST, AND FLESH: HUNGER AND VIOLENCE IN
NEW ENGLAND, 1688-1748”

ZACHARY NOWAK, DISSERTATION TBA (AUTHOR OF *TRUFFLE: A GLOBAL
HISTORY*)

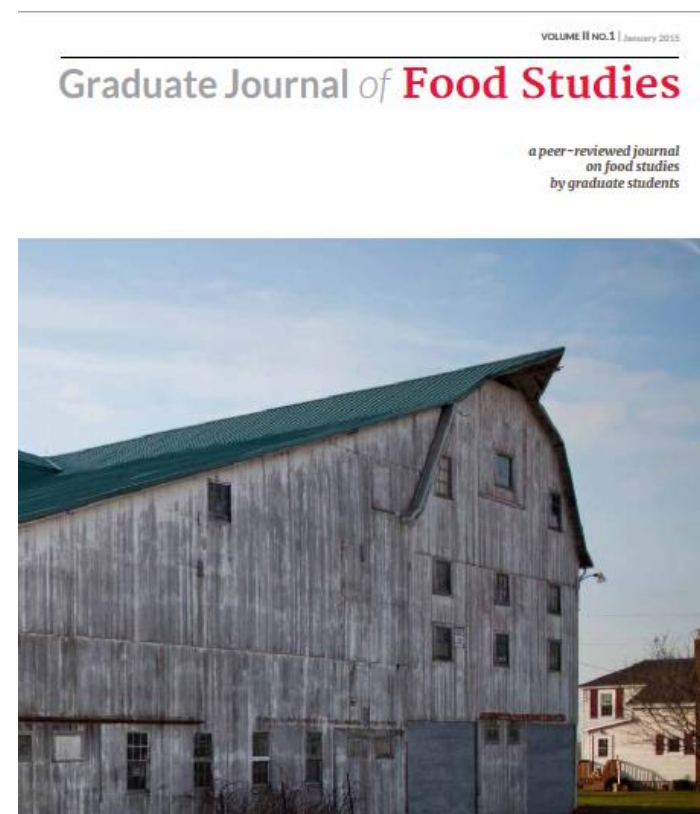
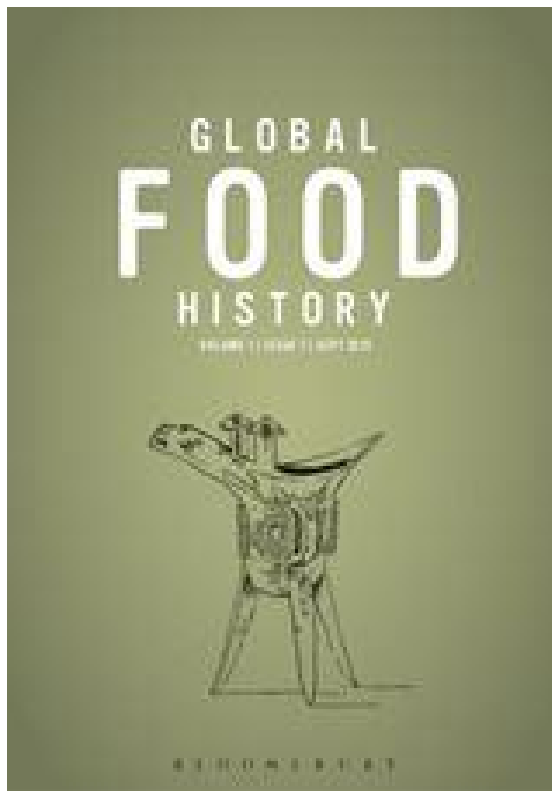
HARVARD GRADUATE STUDENTS
IN HISTORY AND AMERICAN STUDIES
WHO WORK WITH ME AND ON FOOD



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New journals



American Food in Global Context (We'll have what they're having)





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CHEZ US/ W 19

Appetizer s

maize-beans-squash

Dr yø human fl esh

Oyster s r ocke f e l l e r

Main Courses

Thanksgiving venison

Hangtown fry

Fr ee r a n g e c r e a t u r e , l o c a l l y f o r a g e d t h i n g , f o a m d u j o u r

SIDE Dishes

ant i s c o r b u t i c s p r i n g t i m e w e e d s

p e r f e c t i o n s a l a d

p o i

BREAD Stuff s

S h i p s b i s c u i t

G r a h a m c r a c k e r s

p a r k e r h o u s e r o l l s

DESSERTS

I n d i a n p u d d i n g

b a k e d a l a s k a

3-D p r i n t e d f o r t u n e c o o k i e s (s o y i n k)

No Smoking

No Tipping