



## Food & Hybridity

Food Conference Perugia  
at The Umbra Institute  
Perugia, Italy  
13-16 June 2024

*Keynote Speaker:*

Prof. Heather Paxson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### Call for Papers

Food is inherently a mix. Sugars, proteins, polyphenols, alkaloids, etc. combine to produce tastes—though taste in the social sense can be dynamic rather than static. The 2024 Food Conference at The Umbra Institute looks to explore this tension between what seems to be static and solid and the present and future(s) that are dynamic and fluid.

What happens when we mix—or scramble—ingredients, crops, and alimentary preferences? What will our hybrid futures look like? What did our hybrid pasts express? Who stands to benefit or to lose out from alimentary hybridity? What actors are involved in these processes? Hybridity presupposes distinct categories that then mix—what is its heuristic value?

The conference organizers look forward to a wide-ranging discussion about our collective hybrid futures (and pasts), a conversation including but not limited to the following topics:

- intersectional futures;
- technological foods such as plant-based or lab-based meat;
- the contribution of AI to our food futures;
- globalization and hybrid food systems;
- hybridity, adaptability, power, and change;
- hybrid identities and multi-species communities;
- how hybridity challenges assumptions about “traditional” foods and the “taste of place”;
- creolization, fusion cuisines and the social implications of hybrid tastes (e.g. for identities).

We welcome papers and panels that focus on different historical and geographical settings. We are also interested in papers on teaching food, best practices in pedagogy, and integrating experiential learning and community-engaged projects into food studies courses.

We are soliciting individual papers, full panels, and roundtables. If you’re a junior scholar and need help with your abstract, contact the conference organizers at [foodconference@umbra.org](mailto:foodconference@umbra.org).

For individual papers please submit the following through the form below:

- an abstract, with title, in English of no more than 250 words that summarizes the focus and content of the paper;
- three to five keywords;
- contact information and a brief academic bio of no more than 100 words.

For panel presentations (3-4 papers) please submit the following through the same form below:

- an abstract, with title, in English of no more than 250 words that summarizes the overall focus of the panel;
- an abstract, with title, in English of no more than 250 words that summarizes the focus and content of each paper;
- three to five keywords for the panel;
- contact information and brief academic bios of no more than 100 words for all panel participants.

Please use [this submission form](https://bit.ly/umbra-food-2024-register) [ <https://bit.ly/umbra-food-2024-register> ] to submit your proposal by **31 December 2023**.

Notifications of acceptance status will be made by **15 February 2024**.

This is an in-person conference; there is no Zoom/remote option. For more information on fees and registration, as well as other [FAQs](#), please see the conference's website: <https://www.umbra.org/food-conference-home/>