



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON
OSTROM WORKSHOP

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Joshua Lohnes

West Virginia University

Monday, February 21: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

Virtual via Zoom: [Click here for link to Zoom meeting](#)



Food Waste, Hunger, and the Shifting Politics of Charitable Food Assistance in the United States

Rising out of the devolution of public services to private actors during the Reagan administration, the food banking economy in the United States is now a multi-billion-dollar industry. The social and political movements that institutionalized charitable food networks are diverse and oft contradictory, offering a window into the politics and competing interests of a U.S. food system that has long grappled with glaring contradictions between food waste and hunger. In this paper, I analyze shifting moral economies of hunger relief within a diverse social movement (re)negotiating a set of ambiguous social codes and norms. I argue that charitable food networks offer a window into the political contest currently unfolding over the future of the U.S. food system. As such the debates within these spaces are critical to understanding the biopolitics of food provisioning in the United States.

Joshua Lohnes studies the moral, political and economic place of food in the wider economy. He currently serves as the Food Policy Research director in the Food Justice Lab developing action research projects through data sharing tools and the planning resources that support the development of food policy and anti-hunger coalitions in West Virginia and beyond.

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