7/16 Dialogue on Food Justice

Opening with check-in and discussion of the Zimmerman trial, connections between the criminal justice system and food justice:

- why food justice and criminal justice systems look the ways they do
- why are white women dramatically overrepresented in this movement? Are they/we helping or/and harming the movement?
- How can we use our selves to subvert, not just be used as a tool
- Food is such a strong organizing tool
- Strange sexism that exists in food movements – how does this play out?
  Underappreciated female labor (paid and unpaid)
- How does white feminism play into this discussion and how can we broaden that? Looking globally, larger discussion
- How do you keep food accountable to other struggles for liberation and social justice – how it can become potentially co-opted, when loses those intersections
- How do we address and move through connections between slavery and farming and food justice
- Black Land project, Black farmers addressing histories in the present
- Nation of Islam has big cooperative farm in Georgia
- Dynamic of fear between white woman and black man – how it plays out in doing things for, not being with – helping can be controlling and controlling can feel safer - distancing
- White female demographic presence: Social coding around women and health, diet, fitness, helping career, virtuous thing to do
- When to step back? What is good practice in some of these spaces
- Not either/or but AND
- If I weren’t here in this role someone else would be harming more, and helping more
- Food is trendy now, organizations to plug into, college students
- How is food justice work operating in the buffer zone?
- Environmental outlook + social justice → food justice = holy grail
- Valuing of life and bodies – relation between the criminal and food justice movements
- Food justice is unique in being able to extricate oneself from the system – grow some of own food, the act of growing powerful and revolutionary and decolonizing, reconnecting to land outside of capitalist system
- Ways in which we are perpetuating colonization
- How much are you doing this with community, contextualized?
- Movement Generation – resilience based organizing, neighborhood and community first
- Food is a personal thing – way to help and plug in
- Eco- comes from oikos prefix meaning home or hearth – economy, ecology
- Women coded as helping, sexism and resistance to sexism
Hard work, you need to be a badass to be a farmer and urban farmer – lots of surprise about physical strength as a female
Bonding through manual work, and mutual respect
“food movement” very different than “food justice” – empowering people through food – opportunity and access to eat the food you want to, not outside forces determining what you can eat
what people want to get out of it versus what they want to put into it
“food sovereignty”: what do we consider justice in the first place?
Sovereignty focuses on access and on overturning of power dynamics on who produces, what produce, how much cost
justice and sovereignty about access and what you have control over – link to histories of racial and environmental justice
tremendous diversity within food movement - white women are all across this spectrum
white females often representative faces
food security
historically in Oakland there has been a lot of fighting around these issues – controlling of means of production, who gets the funding can be contentious in a resource-depleted areas, complicated landscape
one of the pieces for working for social justice in spaces, crucial to do homework and developing political skills to navigate well
the Landless Workers’ Movement – largest movement in the Americas, MST had a specific strategy to not have white people join until later to support, interesting metaphor for what is role in shaping and/or supporting after it has been established/shaped?
And what is it to not just play a support role in challenging white supremacist culture?
Who gets grants, language needed to speak?
Feeling stifled, with this analysis what are practical options open to me?
leave job and someone with less analysis will come in and do what I do? Or leave get less fulfilling job and volunteer my time?
Sober assessment of what is possible within the positions, organizations we are in
Not needed by food justice movement but how can I be useful
As women we are often taught to discount our value, word, contributions
Permaculture! Nothing thrown away, not weeds, no “weedifying” people, no throw away people – metaphor for human society
How can be more accountable to related struggles and movements?
Growing own food for people is often peripherally interesting, not top priority
You have skills learned from white male fundraiser, radical analysis and are in the Bay Area, that’s pretty amazing
Phat Beets neighborhood focus, show up at immigration rallies, comes out with statements
Training at work about microaggressions
• Lots of white progressive people interested in sustainable food, and don’t see it as a racial and economic justice issue
• Some youth of color not wanting to be seen working in the garden, connections with slavery – working outside growing food signifying oppression or signifying empowerment
• Can be doing the same work side by side seen differently, different perspective can be expressed and move forward together
• Recognizing what's in it for you