

The 4th International Interdisciplinary Conference

‘Food and Drink as a Gift’

12th – 13th October 2023

Organisers:

Pedagogical University of Krakow and Technological University Dublin

We are pleased to announce the call for papers for our upcoming Food and Drink as a Gift Conference, which will be held in Krakow, Poland. We invite abstract submissions from a wide range of disciplines to examine the various aspects of food and drink as a gift. Food and drink have long been highly symbolic, and they continue to play a vital role in our daily lives and in our relationships with others.

Food is often seen as a representation of cultural identity and cultural traditions, so the exchange of food and drink gifts can create, reinforce, or disrupt cultural and social relations. As gifts, they offer some deeper resonance, whether sharing a home-cooked meal, exchanging gift baskets filled with gourmet treats or bringing food gifts back from holiday. As such, they are often given as a symbol of love, hospitality, generosity, tradition, or status, often within the context of culturally specific meanings and practices. Similarly, gifts such as food parcels within and between communities to alleviate the effects of war, imprisonment, migration, hunger and food insecurity serve to either make a political or religious point, or to strengthen social cohesion through building trust, reciprocity, and prestige. Large communities, such as sovereign states, use food and drink as a diplomatic gift to flaunt the wealth and sophistication of the donor, to showcase their products to promote exports, and to take advantage of the associations of food with friendship and conviviality to stress the warmth of the relationship between state leaders. A leader’s acceptance of a gift of food or drink requires trust, as consumption requires ingestion. Accordingly, gifts of food and drink at any level may not just be a positive symbol, but a test of it.

From a psychological perspective, the act of giving and receiving food as a gift can be highly meaningful, evoking feelings of gratitude, connection, well-being and a need to reciprocate. Giving food as a gift is acknowledged to have positive effects on both the giver and the receiver, contributing to overall happiness and satisfaction. Perhaps gifts associated with food and drink can have similar benefits, such as gifts of heritage, cookbooks, and gifts of the future by passing on skills and knowledge from one generation to another. With the rise of the gig economy and online food delivery services, what new opportunities and challenges are emerging for food as a gift?

From a sustainability perspective, food and drink as a gift raises important ethical considerations related to the environmental impact of food production and consumption, as well as issues of access and equity. Can we consider the ‘Columbian Exchange’ a food and drinks gift between the new world and the old world? Is foraged food a gift from nature?

Food as a gift also has important economic and moral implications, from the consumer seeking foods for gifting that are local and artisanal, to the international food science industry's proselytising of nutraceuticals and processed foods as gifts to society containing physiological benefits, protection against chronic diseases, and convenience. In such circumstances food education may be a gift in order for everyone to make informed choices equipped with the appropriate cooking skills and contemporaneous food culture knowledge. Similarly, in this context, is food and drinks in the media and the arts a gift? And what of the role of food and drinks gifts in religious beliefs? Numerous instances include offerings to a deity, grave goods, and as symbols in religious ceremonies.

In conclusion, food as a gift is a multifaceted concept with cultural, social, moral, psychological, sustainability, and economic implications, making it a rich and complex area of study. By exploring the different perspectives on food as a gift, we can gain a deeper understanding of its significance and its impact on our lives, our communities, and the world.

We welcome original and thought-provoking papers that address the theme from a wide range of perspectives, including but not limited to the following topics:

- Culinary traditions and the role of food in cultural exchange
- The art of cooking and presentation as a form of gift-giving
- The impact of food as a gift on community building and social connections
- The sustainability and ethical considerations of food production and gifting
- The history and evolution of food as a gift in different societies and cultures
- The role of technology and innovation in the food industry and gift-giving
- The connection between food as a gift and health, wellness, and nutrition
- The business and economic aspects of the food industry and gift-giving
- The psychology of giving and receiving food as a gift
- The future of food as a gift in a rapidly changing world
- Food and drink as a symbol of hospitality and generosity
- The cultural and social meanings of food and drink gifts
- The intersection of food and drink gifts with gender, class, and race
- The role of food and drink in contemporary gift-giving practices
- Food and drink gifts in religious and ritual contexts
- The impact of globalization on food and drink gifts

The conference fee is 500 PLN/100 Euros (375 PLN/75 Euros for students and PhD candidates). This includes a welcome pack with conference materials, tea/coffee breaks, refreshments in the conference venue, the conference dinner, publication of the paper (if accepted for publication). Please note that travel costs and accommodation are not included.

Please forward this notice to any interested parties.

Submission Guidelines:

- *Before* submitting your abstract, please complete your Online Registration on the conference website: <https://foodanddrinks.weebly.com/>
- After you have registered for the conference on our website, send abstract submissions to food.as.gift.conference@gmail.com by **10th June 2023**.
- All submissions will be reviewed by a panel of experts in the field, and notifications of acceptance will be sent out by 20th June 2023.
- Abstracts should be no more than 250 words and should clearly state the research question, methodology, and significance of the proposed paper.
- Please include the author's name, affiliation, contact information, and a brief biography of the presenter or presenters.
- The presentation of a paper at the conference should be no longer than 20 minutes.
- Selected papers from the conference will be considered for publication in a special issue of a relevant academic journal or a monograph.

Please visit the conference website at <https://foodanddrinks.weebly.com/> for details regarding the venue, conference programme, suggested accommodation, transportation and other practicalities.

We look forward to receiving your submissions and to exploring the rich and fascinating topic of food as a gift together.