

**CALL FOR PAPERS :**

**“Feeding Others, Feeding Oneself:**

**Food and Power from Antiquity to the Middle Ages”.**

(Université de Picardie, Amiens, November 18-19, 2019)

Food history has been largely explored during the past two decades, through lenses ranging from classical economic analysis to the large prospect of historical anthropology. Of course, power issues at stake when dealing with the problem of controlling and dispatching fresh supplies have not escaped notice either, nor have the possible symbolic uses of food. However, scholarly attention may not have sufficiently focused on these matters so far. Hence the forthcoming conference in Amiens, France, in November 18-19, 2019 : “Feeding Others, Feeding Oneself : Food and Power from Antiquity to the Middle Ages”, whose aim is to develop a new approach of the subject from a long-term perspective ranging from the most archaic period to the later Middle Ages.

Papers should address one of the following lines of inquiry :

- 1) How do eating manners represent and express power ? The use of refined cooking and sophisticated dishes as well as the development of a genuine culinary art including ritual aspects serves to represent power symbolically and thereby express its ideological tenets. How did power-holders use this kind of possibilities in various contexts, ranging from the Greek City-State or imperial Rome to XVth century princely courts, to mention but a few examples ?
- 2) How does the feeding imperative legitimize power ? In ancient societies as well as in today’s world, one of the most solid grounds on which the legitimacy of power is founded is its ability to ensure the community’s survival and welfare. That means, of course, keeping this community safe through military power; but it also means feeding it, which explains the previously mentioned importance of food habits as power symbols and the importance of food dispatch in the very practice of power. Particular attention should therefore be paid to every kind of *evergesia* in the ancient world or to charity and its close links with power, whether lay or ecclesiastical, in the mediaeval society that had become Christian.

- 3) How does power manage food supplies ? The feeding function of power obviously binds it to economic strategies that deserve to be studied as well. Papers dealing with this subject will focus on the kinds of foodstuffs that are supposed to be produced, conveyed and dispatched in consuming centers by those in power, as well as on the professions and techniques involved in the process.
- 4) How does food-management lead power to manage the land ? How do those in power organize space in the fittest way for the purpose of feeding people ? Papers bearing on the subject should explore the way in which this constant concern for food supplies has weighed on the kind of control and exploitation of territories, whether close or remote, by the social and political elite, from the time of the first colonial experiences in the Greek world to that of the large clearings of mediaeval Christendom, usually ordered and conducted by lords.

Organizing committee: Maria Luisa BONSANGUE (Roman history) – Michela COSTANZI (Greek history and archaeology) – Marie-Laurence HAACK (Roman history) – Pascal MONTAUBIN (Medieval history) – Philippe RACINET (Medieval history and archaeology) – Guillaume SAINT-GUILLAIN (Medieval history) – Clément SARRAZANAS (Greek history and archaeology) – Anne TALLON (Medieval history)

Interested scholars and researchers are invited to submit a short *curriculum* with their institutional affiliation, a title and an abstract no longer than 2500 signs (spaces included) to [nourrir.senourrir@gmail.com](mailto:nourrir.senourrir@gmail.com). The submission deadline is **April 30, 2019**.

Abstracts, talks and papers should be presented in one of the following languages: **French, English or Italian.**

Please note that the travel cost will not be covered by the conference organizers, but accommodation and meals will be provided to the speakers during the event.

A publication of the papers presented during the conference is planned.