

## Religion and Food

A conference arranged by the Donner Institute for Research in Religious and Cultural History, Åbo/Turku, Finland

25-27 June, 2014, Åbo Akademi University  
ASA-building B, Fänriksgatan/Vänrikinkatu 2, 20500 Åbo/Turku

[www.abo.fi/donnerysymposium](http://www.abo.fi/donnerysymposium)

### Wednesday 25.6

09.00 **Registration and coffee**

09.45 **Words of welcome**

Docent Tore Ahlbäck, Director Emeritus of the Donner Institute

10.00 **Keynote**

Prof. Benjamin E. Zeller, Lake Forest College, Chicago, USA

*Totem and taboo in the grocery store*

11.00 **Music**

Vocal Ensemble Giardino Novo

11.15 **Donner Prize Winner 2014**

Dr. Elina Hankela, University of Helsinki/University of Johannesburg

*Challenging Ubuntu: Open doors and exclusionary boundaries in Johannesburg*

12.00 **Lunch**

Café Arken, Arken-building, Fabriksgatan/Tehtaankatu 2

13.30 **Paper Session 1** (parallel sessions)

**Session A:**

13.30 Marco Beghelli: *"Panis Angelicus": From St. Thomas Aquinas to Luciano Pavarotti*

14.00 Michel Desjardins: *Imagining Jesus, with food*

14.30 Karl-Gustav Sandelin: *Questions of food in early Christianity*

**Session B:**

13.30 Ben Kasstan: *The taste of trauma: Reflections of ageing Shoah survivors on food and how they (re)inscribe it with meaning*

14.00 Adrienne Krone: *"A Shmita manifesto": A radical sabbatical approach to Jewish food reform in the United States*

14.30 Aldea Mulhern: *There's Kashrut, and then there's "eating Jewishly"*

15.00 **Coffee**

15.30 **Paper Session 2** (parallel sessions)

**Session A:**

15.30 Samira K. Mehta: *A Kosher Christmas dinner: Food, tradition, and the Christian-Jewish interfaith household*

- 16.00 Marcus Moberg: *"Does God care about your weight?" Constructing the Evangelical consumer through the marketing of devotional diets*
- 16.30 Ulrica Söderlind: *Three Religions – One City*

**Session B:**

- 15.30 Nina Björkman: *Ramadan behind bars*
- 16.00 Miriam Schader: *More important than bread-and-butter issues? Bright and blurred boundaries related to "forbidden" food*
- 16.30 Paulette Kershenovich Schuster: *Habaneros and Shwarma: Jewish Mexicans in Israel as a transnational community*

18.30 **Guided walk in historical Turku**

19.30 **Reception at the Donner Institute**

The Donner Institute, Biskopsgatan/Piispankatu 13

**Thursday 26.6**

08.30 **Paper Session 3** (parallel sessions)

**Session A:**

- 08.30 Hannah Bacon: *Sinful eating: An expression of female domination or female power?*
- 09.00 Gioia Filocamo: *Hungry women: Sin and rebellion through food and music in the early modern era*
- 09.30 Bindu Malieckal: *Spice wars: Trade and religious conflict in 16th century Portuguese India*

**Session B:**

- 08.30 Andrea Gutierrez: *Too much to chew: Ambivalence toward betel leaf consumption in Sanskrit sources*
- 09.00 Stephen Jacobs: *Sattvic foods: Soteriological and therapeutic diets in traditional yoga and contemporary Hindu meditation movements*
- 09.30 Liia Raipalinn: *Sacred borders in secular talk about food*

10.00 **Coffee**

10.30 **Paper Session 4** (parallel sessions)

**Session A:**

- 10.30 Nana Blomqvist: *Consumption and abstention: Alienating food consumption*
- 11.00 Anna Sofia Salonen: *The Christmas celebration and secondary consumers: Observations from food banks in Finland*
- 11.30 William D. Schanbacher: *American exceptionalism, power, and control of the global food system*

**Session B:**

- 10.30 Céline Grünhagen: *Seeding cosmic harmony: An appraisal of spiritual approaches to food production such as Anthroposophical agriculture*
- 11.00 Katarina Plank: *Sticky rice and karma - Food and gender in Thai Buddhism in Sweden*
- 11.30 Göran Ståhle: *"Food is your medicine": Ayurvedic dietary advice from the perspective of the psychology of religion*

12.00 **Lunch**

13.30 **Keynote**

Prof. Gunnar af Hällström, Åbo Akademi University, Åbo/Turku, Finland  
*Daily bread or heavenly bread? The meals of the early church, reflections of Christian ideology and search for identity*

14.30 **Coffee**

15.00 **Paper Session 5** (parallel sessions)

**Session A:**

15.00 Anna Haapalainen, Eero Karhu, Aleksi Kauppinen & Benjamin Zeller: *Transatlantic student and teacher collaboration on food and religion: Experiences and ideas*

**Session B:**

15.00 Elena Mazzetto & Natalia Moragas Segura: *Contexts offering and ritual food in the archaeological and pictographic record in central Mexico*

15.30 Patricia Rodrigues de Souza: *Food in African Brazilian Candomblé*

16.00 Joanna Zamorska: *Prestige and alcohol in south Mexican Catholic fiesta*

19.00 **Conference Dinner**

Cruise with the Steamship Ukkopekka in the archipelago outside Åbo

The steamship leaves at 19.00 from the Aura River in the city centre

**Friday 27.6**

08.30 **Paper Session 6** (parallel sessions)

**Session A:**

08.30 Panu Pihkala: *Ecotheology and theology of eating: Convergencies and controversies*

09.00 David Walsh: *The nature of food: Climate change, Caribou, and Dene foodways*

09.30 Laura Wickström: *Implications of Islamic food regulations on the Muslim market*

**Session B:**

08.30 Sara Dupplis: *The Wiccan way: Food as a magic and ritual component*

09.00 Pernille Adine Nordby: *Spirituality and conceptions of the body among persons with alternative diets in contemporary Norway*

09.30 Tommy Ramstedt: *Too alternative? Discourses on extreme diets within the Finnish alternative spiritual milieu*

10.00 **Coffee**

10.30 **Paper Session 7** (parallel sessions)

**Session A**

10.30 Marja-Liisa Keinänen: *Bread – a gift of God: Ritualisation of bread-related practices in the vernacular religion of Russian Karelia*

11.00 Risto Rätty: *The origins of vegetarianism in the SDA church*

11.30 Anna Westman: *Sami sacrificial meals*

**Session B**

10.30 Miriam Abu Salem: *Religious dietary rules and the protection of religious freedom: Some evidence from practice in Italy*

11.00 Else Marie Øvrebø: *How do kindergarten personnel act regarding food and religion?*

11.30 Karen Swartz: *You are what you eat: an examination of calls for a vegetarian diet on Anthroposophy-related websites*

12.00 **Lunch**

13.30 **Keynote**

Dr. Graham Harvey, Open University London, UK

*Respectfully eating or not eating horses, pigs, ants or carrots: defining religion as everyday food rules*

14.30 **Closing of the conference**

Docent Ruth Illman, Director of the Donner Institute

14.45 **Coffee and farewells**