

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/food-activism-today/>

This video is a detailed discussion on the issues of food security and sustainable food production in the context of neoliberalism and market fundamentalism. The author reflects on their previous work with coauthor Dorothy Holland, who has passed away, and outlines their research findings related to how neoliberalism fails to provide adequate food for those in need while also neglecting ecological sustainability, especially in the face of climate change.

The concept of food activism is introduced as a response to these shortcomings, emphasizing the importance of making food systems more inclusive and sustainable. The author discusses the disparities in food security, particularly affecting low-income and marginalized communities, detailing both urban and rural contexts in North Carolina. Four specific settings are examined: Charlotte and Durham (urban) and two rural areas, Watauga County and Edgecombe County.

In Charlotte, a considerable demand for fresh, local food exists, but challenges ensue due to unsustainable farming conditions and the high costs of land. Initiatives such as Slow Food Charlotte are highlighted as examples of community-driven efforts to make fresh food accessible. Durham's food activism is exemplified by a cooperative known as Cornucopia Landscaping, which promotes edible landscapes while attempting to bridge gaps across racial divides.

This video also addresses the rural context of food activism, discussing the Farm Café in Watauga County, which operates under a model promoting dignity and choice for food insecure populations. The Clarkton Community Garden in Edgecombe County highlights efforts to empower local youth by teaching them to garden and produce food, alongside addressing community food needs.

Throughout, the author underscores the detrimental impact of the industrial food system, which prioritizes profit over nutrition and sustainability, and calls for increased government support for food activism. Ultimately, the text highlights the urgent need for systemic change in food production and distribution to ensure access to healthy food for all, particularly those facing economic challenges.