Sense of Place and Community Food Systems

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Sense of Place & Community Food Systems

- Sense of Place
- Community Food Systems
- Civic Engagement
Sense of Place

• Think of a place that is important to you – this could be a place from your past, a place you still frequent, a place you have only been to one time or many.
Sense of Place

• What is it about those places that make them important?
  – Part of who you are
  – You get something from them
  – They have emotional, spiritual, physical, cognitive meaning
  – They connect you to something larger – family, the land, community
Sense of Place

Place: Biophysical

- Changes/maintains
- Provides setting and purpose for
- Deepens/reinforces
- Motivates

Place action

Socio-cultural Sense of Place

Personal Sense of Place

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Attachment</th>
<th>Place Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(emotional, psychological and physical connection)</td>
<td>(symbolic meanings given to place)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Identity</td>
<td>- Ecological</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Dependence</td>
<td>- Social</td>
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<td>- Behavioral</td>
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Motivations for Food Systems Work

• Why are you involved with community food systems?

• What benefits do you get from your involvement?
Place-Making

• How does a sense of place develop?
  • Experience
  • Reflection
  • Relationships
  • Dependence
  • Similarities
Farmshed

• Focus on relationships
• Expanding the meanings of food and place
• Increasing the understanding of dependencies
• Building “inhabitation” skills
• Decolonization of food system
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• Relationship between sense of place and community food systems
  – How does sense of place motivate engagement in community food systems?
  – How does sense of place develop through engagement in community food systems?
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• How can place/the land/community/food serve as a common motivator and ground for civic engagement?
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- Interviews with ~30 people involved in food systems work – founders, staff, volunteers, farmers
- Diverse representation: geographical, cultural, professional, economic = urban, tribal and rural.
- Focus groups and interviews spring through fall 2014