

1

00:00:29,240 --> 00:00:32,360
This is our ASFS 40 recording.

2

00:00:32,520 --> 00:00:35,920
I'm Emily Contois,
and I have the privilege of interviewing

3

00:00:35,920 --> 00:00:37,560
Jan Poppendieck.

4

00:00:37,560 --> 00:00:39,960
It is goodness gracious. What day is it?

5

00:00:39,960 --> 00:00:41,200
It is April 1st.

6

00:00:41,200 --> 00:00:43,920
We decided to do this on April Fool's Day.

7

00:00:43,920 --> 00:00:48,240
It is, Tuesday, April 1st of 2025.

8

00:00:48,960 --> 00:00:51,440
And this is our recording session.

9

00:00:51,440 --> 00:00:54,480
I am, coming to you from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

10

00:00:54,480 --> 00:00:56,200
And, Jan, where you coming from today?

11

00:00:56,200 --> 00:00:59,160
Brooklyn, New York. Brava.

12

00:00:59,160 --> 00:01:01,840
So, the Association
for the Study of Food and Society

13

00:01:01,840 --> 00:01:05,720

was founded in 1985,
the year after I was born.

14

00:01:06,320 --> 00:01:08,800

To promote
the interdisciplinary study of food

15

00:01:08,800 --> 00:01:12,160

and society
as part of its 40th anniversary.

16

00:01:12,200 --> 00:01:15,640

We wanted to chronicle the history of ASFS
as an organization

17

00:01:15,840 --> 00:01:19,080

and reflect on its role in the broader
field of food studies.

18

00:01:19,320 --> 00:01:20,880

As part of this effort.

19

00:01:20,880 --> 00:01:24,720

We're conducting a series of video
interviews with esteemed individuals

20

00:01:24,720 --> 00:01:30,120

like Jan to gather insights
about ASFS's past, present, and future.

21

00:01:30,360 --> 00:01:32,440

So to start us
off, Jen, where are you from?

22

00:01:33,640 --> 00:01:36,640

I was
born in new Jersey, central New Jersey,

23

00:01:36,720 --> 00:01:42,480
and, lived in, Metuchen, New Jersey
until I was 12.

24
00:01:42,600 --> 00:01:44,840
My dad taught at Rutgers.

25
00:01:44,840 --> 00:01:48,920
And then I moved to the Washington area
when he took a job with the

26
00:01:49,320 --> 00:01:52,160
the federal government and lived there

27
00:01:52,160 --> 00:01:55,160
until I went off to college.

28
00:01:55,560 --> 00:01:57,840
And so where'd you go to school
when you were,

29
00:01:57,840 --> 00:02:00,840
as a child and then going into college
and grad school?

30
00:02:01,080 --> 00:02:04,720
Well, as a child,
I went to local, public schools,

31
00:02:05,720 --> 00:02:08,720
the Edgar School in Metuchen, New Jersey,

32
00:02:09,240 --> 00:02:13,920
and then I, went to high school
in Alexandria, Virginia,

33
00:02:14,160 --> 00:02:18,720
which was where we lived in the Washington
area, Francis C Hammond High School.

34
00:02:19,120 --> 00:02:22,120
And I did my undergraduate work at Duke.

35
00:02:23,560 --> 00:02:26,400
I graduated from Duke in 1967.

36
00:02:28,880 --> 00:02:31,880
Quite a while before you were born.

37
00:02:31,920 --> 00:02:36,520
And, went on to do doctoral work
at Brandeis University,

38
00:02:36,520 --> 00:02:40,560
the Florence Heller Graduate School
for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare,

39
00:02:41,320 --> 00:02:44,320
as it was known then.

40
00:02:44,400 --> 00:02:47,400
And you've had an illustrious research
and teaching career.

41
00:02:47,760 --> 00:02:50,160
But tell us about it.
Like the topics you focused on,

42
00:02:50,160 --> 00:02:53,160
the methods that you used.

43
00:02:53,400 --> 00:02:56,920
Well, I will start by saying
that my entire teaching career

44
00:02:57,160 --> 00:03:00,480
was at Hunter College of the City
University of New York.

45

00:03:01,960 --> 00:03:06,680

A wonderful institution
and a real reflection of, of New York

46

00:03:06,680 --> 00:03:12,000

and its diversity and its energy
and its contribution to upward mobility.

47

00:03:12,120 --> 00:03:15,920

So, I feel very lucky to have landed

48

00:03:16,280 --> 00:03:19,040

at Hunter.

49

00:03:19,040 --> 00:03:22,040

My research has

50

00:03:22,200 --> 00:03:26,680

and in some ways my teaching,
but certainly my research and writing

51

00:03:26,680 --> 00:03:31,920

have all been focused around
the issue of hunger in the United States.

52

00:03:32,320 --> 00:03:35,040

Now, we generally call it food insecurity.

53

00:03:36,400 --> 00:03:39,400

And, I started this

54

00:03:39,840 --> 00:03:42,840

with my,

55

00:03:44,040 --> 00:03:47,040

with, with my first graduate work.

56

00:03:47,880 --> 00:03:50,880

We were required for a Master's level

57

00:03:53,080 --> 00:03:57,000

course sequence

to, choose a social problem

58

00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:00,360

and write a substantive analysis
of a social problem.

59

00:04:00,360 --> 00:04:03,240

And I chose hunger in America.

60

00:04:03,240 --> 00:04:07,320

In part because I was awakened

61

00:04:08,040 --> 00:04:10,680

and aware in 1968

62

00:04:10,680 --> 00:04:14,480

when Hunger USA and Our Daily Bread

63

00:04:14,480 --> 00:04:19,720

to major exposes of hunger
and that particularly

64

00:04:19,720 --> 00:04:23,240

of the failure of food assistance
programs were published.

65

00:04:23,760 --> 00:04:26,480

And so I went off to graduate school

66

00:04:26,480 --> 00:04:29,480

in a sense with the with a burning issue.

67

00:04:30,360 --> 00:04:34,960

I did that substitute
the master's level thing

68

00:04:35,160 --> 00:04:38,640

as an analysis of, of public policy failure

69

00:04:39,040 --> 00:04:42,040

of what I or,

70

00:04:42,680 --> 00:04:46,920

the ways in which the existing food assistance programs, commodity

71

00:04:46,920 --> 00:04:52,040

distribution, the early food stamp program, the school meal programs

72

00:04:52,040 --> 00:04:55,440

were failing the people in our country who were in need of them.

73

00:04:55,920 --> 00:05:00,280

And then I for my dissertation, I undertook a history

74

00:05:00,680 --> 00:05:04,080

of food assistance to understand how they got that way.

75

00:05:04,080 --> 00:05:08,400

So, basically an origins of federal food assistance in the Great Depression.

76

00:05:10,280 --> 00:05:12,800

So, that was that was the start.

77

00:05:12,800 --> 00:05:17,280

And then I moved on to take a look at charitable, research.

78

00:05:17,640 --> 00:05:20,640
Sweet Charity: Emergency Food
and the End of Entitlement

79
00:05:20,920 --> 00:05:25,320
was basically a qualitative study

80
00:05:25,880 --> 00:05:31,040
of the emerging empire,
if you will, or extensive

81
00:05:31,040 --> 00:05:35,880
network of soup kitchens, food pantries
and food banks in the United States.

82
00:05:35,880 --> 00:05:41,640
And I did hundreds of interviews
not primarily with with recipients,

83
00:05:41,640 --> 00:05:44,720
but with staff and volunteers
trying to understand

84
00:05:45,240 --> 00:05:48,240
how how this had come about.

85
00:05:49,200 --> 00:05:52,920
And then I turned my attention
to school food, and,

86
00:05:53,960 --> 00:05:56,040
a Free for All: Fixing School

87
00:05:56,040 --> 00:05:59,040
Food in America,

88
00:05:59,280 --> 00:06:01,920
is still haunting me.

89

00:06:01,920 --> 00:06:06,360
As the Republican led Congress considers

90
00:06:06,560 --> 00:06:10,640
proposals to drastically cut support
for school food so.

91
00:06:14,480 --> 00:06:16,600
So, I think your work has been so profound
for me.

92
00:06:16,600 --> 00:06:21,280
Sweet charity was in like, my Intro
to Gastronomy class when I joined BU.

93
00:06:21,720 --> 00:06:25,080
And then we also read Free for All
and so you can see all the sticky notes.

94
00:06:25,080 --> 00:06:28,440
And so your work, you know,
was every step of the way,

95
00:06:28,440 --> 00:06:31,440
right, of thinking about what
food studies is.

96
00:06:31,600 --> 00:06:35,120
But given your trajectory, like food
studies, was this baby discipline, right.

97
00:06:35,120 --> 00:06:36,680
Like you've been part of building it.

98
00:06:36,680 --> 00:06:38,520
And so when you think about the question,

99
00:06:38,520 --> 00:06:41,520
you know, what brought you specifically
to the topic of food studies?

100

00:06:41,560 --> 00:06:42,960

It's maybe a little bit different

101

00:06:42,960 --> 00:06:45,240

that it was something you were drawn to
before

102

00:06:45,240 --> 00:06:47,160

you could get a degree in it
or take a class

103

00:06:47,160 --> 00:06:49,640

that was called Intro to Food Studies.

104

00:06:49,640 --> 00:06:52,760

So, what brought you specifically
to the topic of food studies?

105

00:06:52,880 --> 00:06:53,360

Okay.

106

00:06:53,360 --> 00:06:58,120

Well, as you say,
I mean, my interest, scholarly interest

107

00:06:58,120 --> 00:07:01,440

in food insecurity predates

108

00:07:01,920 --> 00:07:04,440

pretty much any discussion of food studies

109

00:07:04,440 --> 00:07:07,440

as a, interdisciplinary field

110

00:07:07,560 --> 00:07:10,560

or as a kind of proto discipline.

111

00:07:10,800 --> 00:07:14,560
We we just weren't talking
about food studies in the 19

112
00:07:14,840 --> 00:07:18,600
I started my doctoral program in 1969.

113
00:07:19,280 --> 00:07:25,680
So, there there were no there was
no formal, or even informal network.

114
00:07:25,680 --> 00:07:28,280
And food was not,

115
00:07:30,040 --> 00:07:32,960
a big topic in the culture.

116
00:07:32,960 --> 00:07:33,880
They went.

117
00:07:33,880 --> 00:07:36,880
I don't think I ever heard
anyone called a foodie

118
00:07:37,200 --> 00:07:41,760
until long after, Breadlines
Knee-Deep in Wheat was published, which,

119
00:07:42,240 --> 00:07:45,520
you know, had been my dissertation
and then reworked into a book.

120
00:07:47,640 --> 00:07:52,200
So, I,

121
00:07:52,560 --> 00:07:56,400
I was at what I thought
think of as the founding

122

00:07:56,400 --> 00:07:59,400
meeting of ASFS

123
00:07:59,480 --> 00:08:02,520
And I think that was the first time
I ever thought of myself

124
00:08:02,520 --> 00:08:08,440
as part of food studies, or
thought about there being a conglomeration

125
00:08:08,440 --> 00:08:12,880
of, of interdisciplinary activities
that we could call food

126
00:08:12,880 --> 00:08:15,880
studies. Now,

127
00:08:15,960 --> 00:08:18,960
the ASFS website in the materials

128
00:08:19,320 --> 00:08:22,080
in preparation for these interviews,

129
00:08:22,080 --> 00:08:24,400
said it was founded in 1985.

130
00:08:24,400 --> 00:08:28,520
And the meeting
I remember, by my calculations,

131
00:08:28,520 --> 00:08:31,040
would have to have been in 1986.

132
00:08:31,040 --> 00:08:34,320
So maybe I wasn't
there at the founding meeting,

133
00:08:34,640 --> 00:08:37,640

or maybe Bill and Yvonne

134

00:08:38,160 --> 00:08:43,200
created ASFS before they pulled together
a group of people,

135

00:08:43,200 --> 00:08:47,920
because I certainly remember it
as feeling like a founding meeting.

136

00:08:49,480 --> 00:08:50,800
But anyway, I was

137

00:08:50,800 --> 00:08:53,800
there at the very beginning,

138

00:08:53,840 --> 00:08:55,960
and it was,

139

00:08:55,960 --> 00:09:01,560
you know, a very exciting thing
for me to realize

140

00:09:01,920 --> 00:09:07,960
that there were all of these scholars
working on aspects of food.

141

00:09:07,960 --> 00:09:11,520
I think because my doctoral dissertation
and the,

142

00:09:12,160 --> 00:09:16,240
the first book I ever wrote
was really a history.

143

00:09:16,280 --> 00:09:18,160
I mean, I did much of the work

144

00:09:18,160 --> 00:09:21,920

in the National Archives
and the Columbia Oral History Collection.

145

00:09:21,920 --> 00:09:24,920
And what have you.

146

00:09:24,960 --> 00:09:27,080
But I wasn't seeking

147

00:09:27,080 --> 00:09:31,920
a credential in history,
nor when I started teaching.

148

00:09:31,920 --> 00:09:34,160
Was I teaching in a history department.

149

00:09:34,160 --> 00:09:36,600
So, I didn't,

150

00:09:36,600 --> 00:09:39,600
comb the history literature

151

00:09:39,840 --> 00:09:44,080
in the way I might have
had I done a doctorate in, in history.

152

00:09:44,520 --> 00:09:48,000
So, there were certainly food
historians at work.

153

00:09:49,600 --> 00:09:52,720
But I didn't see them as,

154

00:09:54,360 --> 00:09:54,760
I didn't

155

00:09:54,760 --> 00:09:57,960
see us as engaged in the same enterprise.

156

00:09:58,600 --> 00:10:01,600

I think, you know, my real

157

00:10:02,440 --> 00:10:05,760

my work life has been driven

158

00:10:05,880 --> 00:10:10,480

by a concern about inequality

159

00:10:10,840 --> 00:10:15,680

in access to food and nourishment and

160

00:10:16,720 --> 00:10:20,040

the circumstances

that make it possible for people

161

00:10:20,040 --> 00:10:23,480

to not only have healthy food, but

162

00:10:23,480 --> 00:10:26,480

to enjoy their food.

163

00:10:27,720 --> 00:10:30,040

Thinking about this very early meeting
that you were at, I'm

164

00:10:30,040 --> 00:10:33,480

guessing there wasn't like a a call for
papers like a traditional organ, is it?

165

00:10:33,480 --> 00:10:36,600

What was it like to be
the circumstances around

166

00:10:36,600 --> 00:10:38,800

how you found yourself
at this exciting gathering very

167

00:10:38,800 --> 00:10:41,440
early on?

168
00:10:41,440 --> 00:10:46,760
I went digging through some old materials
today, trying to figure out

169
00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:51,360
from whom did I get an invitation to
to come to that meeting.

170
00:10:51,920 --> 00:10:56,840
The reason I I'm fairly sure,
or the reason I believe it was in 1976, is

171
00:10:56,840 --> 00:11:02,320
because I spent that was a sabbatical year
for me, and I was living in Mexico.

172
00:11:02,320 --> 00:11:08,120
And I remember arranging to fly
from Mexico to Kalamazoo,

173
00:11:08,440 --> 00:11:12,720
Michigan,
where where this meeting was held. And,

174
00:11:14,520 --> 00:11:16,640
I had the resources to do that

175
00:11:16,640 --> 00:11:20,600
because I had gotten a really wonderful
fellowship from the W.K.

176
00:11:20,600 --> 00:11:22,440
Kellogg Foundation.

177
00:11:22,440 --> 00:11:26,600
So, it was a the called
the Kellogg National Fellowship Program.

178

00:11:26,600 --> 00:11:28,720

And it went on for three years.

179

00:11:28,720 --> 00:11:32,520

And you got, a quarter of your time off.

180

00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:39,360

And, they, they negotiated
with your university or other employer,

181

00:11:39,360 --> 00:11:44,520

but we were almost all academics
for a quarter of your time off and,

182

00:11:45,520 --> 00:11:48,520

and a pot of money

183

00:11:48,520 --> 00:11:51,520

to learn about something
outside your field.

184

00:11:53,480 --> 00:11:56,560

So I, I had the resources to,

185

00:11:57,080 --> 00:12:01,560

to attend this meeting,
which I've been very grateful for

186

00:12:01,600 --> 00:12:05,400

because it was, as I say,
the meeting was a revelation to me.

187

00:12:05,760 --> 00:12:09,320

There were certainly some presentations
at that meeting.

188

00:12:10,200 --> 00:12:13,680

It wasn't an academic annual conference.

189

00:12:13,720 --> 00:12:16,960

ASFS didn't begin
those until two years later.

190

00:12:18,600 --> 00:12:19,680

But there were

191

00:12:19,680 --> 00:12:23,160

definitely some presentations
that kind of illustrated

192

00:12:23,680 --> 00:12:26,440

different,

193

00:12:26,440 --> 00:12:29,600

different disciplines
that had an interest.

194

00:12:29,600 --> 00:12:33,600

I remember that there was a presentation
by a nutritionist,

195

00:12:34,800 --> 00:12:37,440

and I believe there were a couple

196

00:12:37,440 --> 00:12:40,880

because Bill Whit and
and Yvonne Vissing were both sociologists.

197

00:12:40,880 --> 00:12:42,720

So they

198

00:12:42,720 --> 00:12:46,760

so but it was largely
an informal discussion

199

00:12:46,760 --> 00:12:51,840

about whether the time

had come to create an organization.

200

00:12:51,840 --> 00:12:56,160

And could we muster the resources
through our various,

201

00:12:56,880 --> 00:13:00,440

universities
and our own time and effort to to do that?

202

00:13:00,720 --> 00:13:03,560

Could we create and sustain

203

00:13:03,560 --> 00:13:06,560

an organization and,

204

00:13:07,320 --> 00:13:10,320

Yvonne was a folklorist,

205

00:13:11,320 --> 00:13:13,680

although her discipline was sociology,

206

00:13:13,680 --> 00:13:17,200

and she helped to create the organization,

207

00:13:17,200 --> 00:13:20,200

but then kind of disappeared from it.

208

00:13:21,120 --> 00:13:24,480

And whereas Bill Witt,
who was the other founder,

209

00:13:25,320 --> 00:13:28,040

stayed
within really until he passed away.

210

00:13:30,800 --> 00:13:33,040

So your
comment about the Kellogg Fellowship

211

00:13:33,040 --> 00:13:36,840

and getting to be trained in another discipline, leads us to this question

212

00:13:36,840 --> 00:13:40,680

that, you know, Warren Belasco, when one of the other early fun ones,

213

00:13:41,320 --> 00:13:45,480

once stated that to do food studies and academic needs to be a generalist,

214

00:13:45,720 --> 00:13:48,720

that having that interdisciplinary skill set,

215

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:52,040

is part of what makes it possible to do food studies.

216

00:13:52,040 --> 00:13:53,320

And so what do you think about that

217

00:13:53,320 --> 00:13:56,320

question of being a generalist, of having that interdisciplinarity?

218

00:13:56,400 --> 00:14:00,600

Do you think it appeals and applies to your work and to the field as a whole?

219

00:14:01,520 --> 00:14:04,120

Well, let me start with the field as a whole.

220

00:14:04,120 --> 00:14:07,680

I, I definitely think it applies to the field

221

00:14:07,680 --> 00:14:11,040
as a whole, not his assertion
that you have to be a generalist.

222

00:14:12,040 --> 00:14:14,400
Because but you have to be

223

00:14:14,400 --> 00:14:17,400
open to and interested in

224

00:14:17,760 --> 00:14:23,480
perspectives and discoveries and research
that's outside your field.

225

00:14:24,160 --> 00:14:26,640
If you only want to more

226

00:14:26,640 --> 00:14:30,200
and more narrowly specialized
within your own discipline

227

00:14:30,600 --> 00:14:33,720
or wherever your credentialing comes from,

228

00:14:34,160 --> 00:14:37,920
I don't think you can get the full benefit

229

00:14:38,520 --> 00:14:41,160
of food studies.

230

00:14:41,160 --> 00:14:42,840
So, I definitely think

231

00:14:42,840 --> 00:14:45,840
within the field for me,

232

00:14:46,040 --> 00:14:47,920
I mean, I have been

233

00:14:47,920 --> 00:14:50,920
a little bit of a of a one note

234

00:14:51,240 --> 00:14:52,240
violin here.

235

00:14:52,240 --> 00:14:55,240
I, I have never,

236

00:14:55,800 --> 00:14:58,800
really,

237

00:14:58,960 --> 00:15:01,480
left behind my concern

238

00:15:01,480 --> 00:15:05,080
about the performance of public programs.

239

00:15:05,280 --> 00:15:08,160
And then with Sweet Charity,

240

00:15:08,160 --> 00:15:12,200
you already know I'm arguing in part

241

00:15:12,200 --> 00:15:15,720
that it relieves the political pressure

242

00:15:16,040 --> 00:15:20,920
for adequate public provision
and substitutes, gifts for rights,

243

00:15:21,280 --> 00:15:22,800
which is not the direction

244

00:15:22,800 --> 00:15:26,280
I would like to see public policy
go in the United States.

245

00:15:26,640 --> 00:15:30,760

So in that sense,

I mean, I've, I've been willing to use

246

00:15:31,440 --> 00:15:34,040

any discipline

247

00:15:34,040 --> 00:15:38,160

that comes to hand

that that's useful in making my arguments.

248

00:15:38,400 --> 00:15:42,320

So, in that sense,

I certainly was a generalist, but

249

00:15:44,280 --> 00:15:45,840

not in the

250

00:15:45,840 --> 00:15:49,120

not in Belasco's sense of,

you know, being an,

251

00:15:49,680 --> 00:15:52,680

anthropologist and a poet.

252

00:15:53,160 --> 00:15:55,720

So, I guess I can leave it

253

00:15:55,720 --> 00:15:57,640

at that.

254

00:15:57,640 --> 00:16:00,640

So, what is food studies mean to you?

255

00:16:00,720 --> 00:16:03,720

Well, I think of food studies as,

256

00:16:03,880 --> 00:16:07,680
an interdisciplinary effort to

257
00:16:09,120 --> 00:16:12,600
learn about and teach about food,

258
00:16:13,800 --> 00:16:15,880
I like the idea of three pillars

259
00:16:15,880 --> 00:16:20,400
of production
distribution, consumption, makes it,

260
00:16:21,360 --> 00:16:24,360
you know, gives us a frame to organize it.

261
00:16:25,440 --> 00:16:28,200
I guess the food

262
00:16:28,200 --> 00:16:31,200
media studies,
which I find very interesting,

263
00:16:31,440 --> 00:16:35,160
would fit under that kind of distribution
because they influence

264
00:16:35,160 --> 00:16:41,280
what choices households make
and what choices people make in, in, a

265
00:16:41,320 --> 00:16:46,320
food, food away from home settings. But,

266
00:16:50,680 --> 00:16:53,760
I don't think a lot about food studies.

267
00:16:55,680 --> 00:16:59,800
I have when I was active in ASFS,

268

00:16:59,800 --> 00:17:04,240
which I was throughout my career
until I retired in 2012.

269

00:17:05,960 --> 00:17:07,440
I thought quite

270

00:17:07,440 --> 00:17:10,440
a lot about the organization.

271

00:17:10,680 --> 00:17:14,120
But I don't tend to think about the field.

272

00:17:17,560 --> 00:17:19,920
That's a really interesting distinction.

273

00:17:19,920 --> 00:17:22,440
It'll be interesting
to hear from other founders

274

00:17:22,440 --> 00:17:23,800
with that relationship to the field.

275

00:17:23,800 --> 00:17:26,000
The ideas the organization.

276

00:17:26,000 --> 00:17:29,000
I mean, I found food

277

00:17:29,160 --> 00:17:32,160
to be a wonderful

278

00:17:33,160 --> 00:17:35,040
way to engage undergraduates.

279

00:17:35,040 --> 00:17:38,960
I taught overwhelmingly undergraduate

and master's level students,

280

00:17:39,520 --> 00:17:42,400
for a variety of reasons.

281

00:17:42,400 --> 00:17:44,640
And I found it to be a wonderful way

282

00:17:44,640 --> 00:17:48,320
to engage them, to free them,

283

00:17:48,840 --> 00:17:52,400
to claim their own expertise.

284

00:17:52,880 --> 00:17:56,120
You know, not only does everybody eat,

285

00:17:58,200 --> 00:17:59,320
but almost

286

00:17:59,320 --> 00:18:03,360
everybody has food culture,
almost everybody.

287

00:18:03,360 --> 00:18:06,600
Well, everybody
has some kind of food culture, but

288

00:18:06,600 --> 00:18:09,600
people have stories and

289

00:18:10,880 --> 00:18:13,440
teaching in a classroom setting

290

00:18:13,440 --> 00:18:17,240
where you can unlock those stories

291

00:18:17,680 --> 00:18:22,840

and validate them and deduce from them

292

00:18:23,360 --> 00:18:27,000
some lessons with broader application.

293

00:18:28,560 --> 00:18:30,480
I think it's a great way to teach,

294

00:18:30,480 --> 00:18:33,840
and I, I loved all of the food
related courses

295

00:18:33,840 --> 00:18:36,840
I ever taught.

296

00:18:37,200 --> 00:18:40,200
So, in that but I, I didn't think of it.

297

00:18:40,200 --> 00:18:42,840
Okay. I'm practicing food studies.

298

00:18:42,840 --> 00:18:46,040
I, I,
I guess I thought more about pedagogy.

299

00:18:48,960 --> 00:18:52,200
So, your question sort of related more to
the field is what do you think

300

00:18:52,200 --> 00:18:56,200
food studies takes seriously
and what does it not yet

301

00:18:56,480 --> 00:18:59,480
take seriously?

302

00:18:59,760 --> 00:19:01,320
I pondered that

303

00:19:01,320 --> 00:19:05,320
in having looked at some of
the preliminary questions, and I thought,

304

00:19:05,320 --> 00:19:09,760
well, I don't know the answer to
what does it take seriously?

305

00:19:11,440 --> 00:19:14,440
And that's

306

00:19:14,800 --> 00:19:17,800
because

307

00:19:17,800 --> 00:19:20,800
I don't read enough

308

00:19:21,840 --> 00:19:25,680
in the field
to make any generalizations about it.

309

00:19:26,640 --> 00:19:30,600
But what I don't think it takes
seriously enough

310

00:19:31,200 --> 00:19:34,200
is, public policy.

311

00:19:34,280 --> 00:19:37,320
I think many of the the

312

00:19:38,280 --> 00:19:39,040
very wonderful

313

00:19:39,040 --> 00:19:42,080
pieces I have read that
scholars have written

314

00:19:43,120 --> 00:19:45,240
don't quite make it

315
00:19:45,240 --> 00:19:48,240
to specifying the implications
for public policy.

316
00:19:48,720 --> 00:19:52,080
And, you know, 1 in 4

317
00:19:53,200 --> 00:19:55,320
Americans participates

318
00:19:55,320 --> 00:19:58,920
in one of the 15 federal food
assistance programs.

319
00:19:59,440 --> 00:20:03,600
We do much more for low income people
through the food programs

320
00:20:04,200 --> 00:20:07,200
than we do through cash assistance.

321
00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:11,000
Which is I mean, TANF has

322
00:20:11,040 --> 00:20:13,280
dwindled down to nearly nothing.

323
00:20:13,280 --> 00:20:15,360
The Temporary Assistance
for Needy Families,

324
00:20:15,360 --> 00:20:18,360
which is what we used to call welfare.

325
00:20:18,760 --> 00:20:22,120
And I feel like I would like to see

326

00:20:23,200 --> 00:20:28,520

food studies

taking the crisis that I think is emerging

327

00:20:28,920 --> 00:20:33,200

for low income families as food prices
rise and rise.

328

00:20:33,200 --> 00:20:38,280

I, I've seen the figures on inflation,
and I have to say that the food price rise

329

00:20:38,280 --> 00:20:42,520

I've personally experienced,
it is more dramatic

330

00:20:42,800 --> 00:20:47,360

than what's what's being reported
as the inflation rate.

331

00:20:47,800 --> 00:20:50,920

And I hear it every time
I'm checking out at a supermarket.

332

00:20:50,920 --> 00:20:53,880

People aghast at their bills.

333

00:20:53,880 --> 00:20:56,320

And I live in a neighborhood
where most of us can afford

334

00:20:57,480 --> 00:20:58,560

our food.

335

00:20:58,560 --> 00:21:02,840

So, I would like to see food studies
paying attention to what's happening

336

00:21:02,880 --> 00:21:07,760
to people at the bottom
end of the income distribution.

337
00:21:07,880 --> 00:21:12,000
And I would like to see food studies
paying attention, if it can,

338
00:21:12,440 --> 00:21:15,320
to the aggregation of power at the top

339
00:21:15,320 --> 00:21:18,320
end of the wealth distribution.

340
00:21:19,880 --> 00:21:21,000
I think that perhaps answers

341
00:21:21,000 --> 00:21:24,080
this next question, but I'll ask it just
in case there's more you'd like to say.

342
00:21:24,680 --> 00:21:27,560
Do you think that food studies
as a scholarly endeavor

343
00:21:27,560 --> 00:21:30,560
has or should have a mission or a vision?

344
00:21:30,800 --> 00:21:33,800
And if so, what should they be?

345
00:21:38,240 --> 00:21:40,760
I don't actually think.

346
00:21:40,760 --> 00:21:43,720
I mean, I think individuals

347
00:21:43,720 --> 00:21:47,080
have a mission driven

348

00:21:49,080 --> 00:21:52,080
career or not.

349

00:21:53,400 --> 00:21:55,480
And for those in food

350

00:21:55,480 --> 00:22:01,080
studies, you know, I would urge
attention to the social justice

351

00:22:01,080 --> 00:22:07,080
and environmental issues in how food
is produced and distributed and consumed.

352

00:22:08,080 --> 00:22:09,200
I think the,

353

00:22:09,200 --> 00:22:12,200
the tenants of the Good Food Purchasing

354

00:22:12,440 --> 00:22:14,920
Project, where

355

00:22:14,920 --> 00:22:20,480
communities
and increasingly states are being urged

356

00:22:20,480 --> 00:22:24,600
to pay attention to the valued workforce.

357

00:22:24,960 --> 00:22:29,760
What, what people who work
not only in, in, farming

358

00:22:29,760 --> 00:22:34,200
but also in food distribution,
the truck drivers and the warehouse

359
00:22:34,200 --> 00:22:38,760
operators and the, the people working in
grocery stores and all of those people

360
00:22:38,760 --> 00:22:42,840
that we suddenly realized
were local heroes during the pandemic.

361
00:22:44,640 --> 00:22:46,200
So paying attention

362
00:22:46,200 --> 00:22:50,520
to the valued workforce force,
both in terms of wages

363
00:22:50,760 --> 00:22:54,680
and work conditions and which are really,

364
00:22:55,520 --> 00:22:58,680
shocking in many food production plants,

365
00:23:00,360 --> 00:23:01,800
one of the things I did

366
00:23:01,800 --> 00:23:04,920
in my Kellogg
Fellowship was go to a chicken

367
00:23:05,320 --> 00:23:08,320
packet packing,

368
00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:09,760
factory,

369
00:23:09,760 --> 00:23:12,760
where, I mean,
I don't know what else to call it.

370

00:23:13,080 --> 00:23:15,600
Where the chickens came in live in crates.

371
00:23:15,600 --> 00:23:18,440
And the first job
was to pick them up by their,

372
00:23:19,640 --> 00:23:22,640
legs and
attach them to an overhead conveyor.

373
00:23:22,680 --> 00:23:27,560
So they dangled and then put them, then
kill them and pluck them.

374
00:23:27,560 --> 00:23:30,800
And and it was the most awful working

375
00:23:30,800 --> 00:23:33,960
conditions
I've ever seen up close and personal.

376
00:23:34,120 --> 00:23:36,880
The personnel, it was hugely noisy.

377
00:23:36,880 --> 00:23:42,240
It smelled terrible in
the air, was permeated with death.

378
00:23:43,480 --> 00:23:46,760
Anyway, so I guess I'm,

379
00:23:48,720 --> 00:23:52,120
But perhaps
not focusing enough on your point,

380
00:23:52,120 --> 00:23:57,480
but the sustainability and climate change
implications of how we grow food

381

00:23:57,480 --> 00:24:01,040
and how we distribute it,
and what kind of expectations

382

00:24:01,040 --> 00:24:06,280
consumers are led to have for year
round availability of,

383

00:24:06,720 --> 00:24:10,520
anything you could ever want to cook with,

384

00:24:12,600 --> 00:24:14,600
the impact on communities,

385

00:24:14,600 --> 00:24:17,600
of the way food is grown and distributed,

386

00:24:18,120 --> 00:24:20,280
the, the health impact.

387

00:24:20,280 --> 00:24:24,120
So, I hope but that

388

00:24:25,240 --> 00:24:26,160
food studies,

389

00:24:27,240 --> 00:24:29,400
I mean, I think almost by its nature,

390

00:24:29,400 --> 00:24:34,040
it can't avoid educating each other
about these things.

391

00:24:34,040 --> 00:24:37,680
It brings together
a group of people whose shared concern

392

00:24:37,680 --> 00:24:40,760

is, is food, and we learn from each other.

393

00:24:41,040 --> 00:24:45,480

But I, I would I could see an organization
having a mission statement.

394

00:24:45,880 --> 00:24:48,520

I cannot see a field

395

00:24:48,520 --> 00:24:51,520

having a mission statement. So.

396

00:24:52,400 --> 00:24:54,000

As you think back to some of those

397

00:24:54,000 --> 00:24:57,320

early ASFS experiences that you had,

398

00:24:58,120 --> 00:25:01,320

is there anything memory wise
that you'd like to make sure

399

00:25:01,320 --> 00:25:03,280

that we know about,
whether it was a presentation

400

00:25:03,280 --> 00:25:07,080

that really moved you,
a framing about food as a field

401

00:25:07,080 --> 00:25:10,080

or a way of thinking about it
that shaped your own research.

402

00:25:10,080 --> 00:25:13,080

Anything you want us to capture there?

403

00:25:13,840 --> 00:25:14,800

Okay.

404

00:25:14,800 --> 00:25:16,400

Well,

405

00:25:16,400 --> 00:25:21,080

I think the most memorable presentation
for me is a

406

00:25:21,320 --> 00:25:24,840

it wouldn't qualify as a really early one.

407

00:25:27,120 --> 00:25:30,000

But, I

408

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:33,000

went to a session on potluck dinners.

409

00:25:34,120 --> 00:25:37,320

This was at the meeting
that was held in Pittsburgh,

410

00:25:37,960 --> 00:25:40,960

Pennsylvania at,

411

00:25:41,480 --> 00:25:44,480

Oh, okay.

412

00:25:44,800 --> 00:25:48,600

The, the university
that when it was college

413

00:25:48,600 --> 00:25:51,600

raised, Rachel Carson attended.

414

00:25:51,640 --> 00:25:52,320

Okay.

415

00:25:52,320 --> 00:25:57,360

But anyway, the speakers someone
was giving a talk about potluck dinners,

416

00:25:57,840 --> 00:26:01,160
and it was a really beautifully crafted

417

00:26:01,440 --> 00:26:05,800
talk with using the details

418

00:26:05,800 --> 00:26:08,840
of her experience with potluck

419

00:26:08,840 --> 00:26:12,480
dinners in the small college town
where she lived

420

00:26:13,320 --> 00:26:16,560
to illustrate all sorts of emerging

421

00:26:16,560 --> 00:26:19,560
theoretical issues in food studies.

422

00:26:20,160 --> 00:26:22,920
And I went home and started a series

423

00:26:22,920 --> 00:26:26,520
of potluck dinners among a group of

424

00:26:27,080 --> 00:26:32,480
mostly elders in the community
where I have a second home.

425

00:26:33,120 --> 00:26:37,440
And it was it turned out to be kind
of transformative for that community.

426

00:26:37,440 --> 00:26:39,120
People got to know each other who

427

00:26:40,200 --> 00:26:41,400
hadn't otherwise.

428

00:26:41,400 --> 00:26:44,360
So and that that leads me to

429

00:26:44,360 --> 00:26:47,880
one of the things that I think
made ASFS

430

00:26:48,280 --> 00:26:52,320
and Ag and Human Values
the the two groups together

431

00:26:52,320 --> 00:26:55,320
to get such rich and wonderful meetings

432

00:26:56,280 --> 00:26:59,480
was because of the shared meals

433

00:26:59,480 --> 00:27:02,480
and the field trips.

434

00:27:02,560 --> 00:27:05,560
There there was just

435

00:27:05,840 --> 00:27:08,440
we were people,

436

00:27:08,440 --> 00:27:12,000
not just scholars in those meetings.

437

00:27:12,000 --> 00:27:16,720
And so, my memories of the of the meetings

438

00:27:16,720 --> 00:27:21,640
are very positive in a way
that my meeting, my memories of the few,

439

00:27:22,320 --> 00:27:27,320

American Sociological Association meetings
I went to are not like that at all.

440

00:27:27,680 --> 00:27:29,840

It's not about community.

441

00:27:29,840 --> 00:27:33,600

And I think ASFS meetings really are

442

00:27:33,800 --> 00:27:37,440

about the
they are a community of scholars.

443

00:27:38,920 --> 00:27:39,800

Okay.

444

00:27:39,800 --> 00:27:43,040

So you've told us that you've been
a part of ASFS from this 1986

445

00:27:43,040 --> 00:27:46,560

early meeting very actively up until 2012
when you retired.

446

00:27:46,760 --> 00:27:50,280

So, what was your involvement like over
those decades of the various ways

447

00:27:50,280 --> 00:27:51,720

you've been a part of the ASFS?

448

00:27:52,840 --> 00:27:54,000

Well, I served on the

449

00:27:54,000 --> 00:27:57,000

board for quite a few years.

450
00:27:58,160 --> 00:28:01,680
I was at the meeting where we decided

451
00:28:01,680 --> 00:28:04,720
to meet jointly with Ag and Human Values.

452
00:28:05,880 --> 00:28:08,520
And, and I supported that and feel

453
00:28:08,520 --> 00:28:11,520
that was a contribution.

454
00:28:12,200 --> 00:28:16,880
I edited with, Kate Clancy and,

455
00:28:18,280 --> 00:28:20,240
another scholar from a scholar

456
00:28:20,240 --> 00:28:23,240
from Canada, a,

457
00:28:23,560 --> 00:28:26,560
a edition of the journal,

458
00:28:27,200 --> 00:28:31,560
that was focused on, on hunger. So.

459
00:28:34,200 --> 00:28:35,200
I think those were

460
00:28:35,200 --> 00:28:38,200
the main ways that I was involved.

461
00:28:38,640 --> 00:28:42,480
I never took an editorial role
in the journal myself,

462

00:28:42,800 --> 00:28:46,440
and I never ran for an office
other than board member.

463
00:28:47,640 --> 00:28:49,920
City University really

464
00:28:49,920 --> 00:28:52,680
did not have a lot of resources

465
00:28:52,680 --> 00:28:55,920
to put into helping to nurture

466
00:28:56,320 --> 00:28:59,320
academic organizations.

467
00:28:59,320 --> 00:29:02,240
There wasn't release time to do that

468
00:29:02,240 --> 00:29:05,240
sort of thing.

469
00:29:05,720 --> 00:29:07,800
So you said how ASFS meetings

470
00:29:07,800 --> 00:29:10,800
feel different
than some other big field meetings?

471
00:29:10,880 --> 00:29:14,760
But being a part of ASFS, were there
other memberships and other organizations

472
00:29:14,760 --> 00:29:18,240
that, stemmed from your
involvement as an academic?

473
00:29:20,160 --> 00:29:21,560
Ag and Human Values.

474

00:29:21,560 --> 00:29:25,480

I was a member off and on and

475

00:29:28,040 --> 00:29:29,040

not nearly

476

00:29:29,040 --> 00:29:32,760

as many years as I was a member of ASFS.

477

00:29:33,160 --> 00:29:34,600

And that that was about it.

478

00:29:34,600 --> 00:29:37,240

And so we,

479

00:29:37,240 --> 00:29:40,240

didn't have a big budget for travel. I,

480

00:29:41,120 --> 00:29:44,880

so while I had my Kellogg fellowship,
I had ample resources

481

00:29:44,880 --> 00:29:47,280

to travel to meetings.

482

00:29:47,280 --> 00:29:50,880

I went once to ARNOVA,

483

00:29:51,960 --> 00:29:56,360

let's see, the Association
for Research into Nonprofit

484

00:29:56,360 --> 00:29:59,360

and Voluntary Organizations.

485

00:29:59,480 --> 00:30:02,520

You know, that was certainly relevant

for Sweet Charity.

486

00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:06,720

So, I went once to their meetings
and that that was a good experience,

487

00:30:06,720 --> 00:30:09,720

but not enough to keep me going back.

488

00:30:10,560 --> 00:30:11,960

You know,

489

00:30:11,960 --> 00:30:15,720

this is when you lived in New York
and you work in.

490

00:30:15,720 --> 00:30:18,000

It's like a constant.

491

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:19,720

I mean, you know, there are

492

00:30:21,120 --> 00:30:24,120

dozens of universities there. So,

493

00:30:25,280 --> 00:30:27,360

you know,

it is it's an incredible place to be.

494

00:30:27,360 --> 00:30:29,600

I'm very jealous of that.

495

00:30:29,600 --> 00:30:33,560

And so we mentioned earlier
how food wasn't always popular

496

00:30:33,560 --> 00:30:35,800

when you first started.

497

00:30:35,800 --> 00:30:37,440

But now it is, right?

498

00:30:37,440 --> 00:30:38,920

Like food's the culture.

499

00:30:38,920 --> 00:30:40,760

It's pop culture is everywhere.

500

00:30:40,760 --> 00:30:43,760

Do you think that's helped or,

501

00:30:44,320 --> 00:30:47,960

has it helped to complicate the field
or has it cultivated any further?

502

00:30:47,960 --> 00:30:48,960

How do you see that relationship

503

00:30:48,960 --> 00:30:52,320

between our pop culture and the Academy
when it comes to food studies?

504

00:30:53,520 --> 00:30:55,400

I think it's very positive.

505

00:30:55,400 --> 00:30:55,800

Okay.

506

00:30:55,800 --> 00:30:58,800

I think that the interest

507

00:30:59,400 --> 00:31:01,320

in from pop culture

508

00:31:01,320 --> 00:31:04,320

grows out of the fact that we will eat.

509

00:31:05,480 --> 00:31:08,840

And as you know, we are all faced

510

00:31:08,840 --> 00:31:13,440

with enormous numbers of choices
about how and what to eat.

511

00:31:14,320 --> 00:31:16,960

And increasingly,

512

00:31:18,200 --> 00:31:18,760

people have

513

00:31:18,760 --> 00:31:22,080

become aware that their choices
have consequences

514

00:31:22,600 --> 00:31:25,600

for other human beings and for animals.

515

00:31:26,800 --> 00:31:28,720

So I guess I think the pop

516

00:31:28,720 --> 00:31:31,720

culture sensibility,

517

00:31:31,760 --> 00:31:34,080

is an asset to the field.

518

00:31:34,080 --> 00:31:39,400

I'm sure there instances
where work that we would regard as not up

519

00:31:39,400 --> 00:31:43,440

to scholarly standards of accuracy
or nuance,

520

00:31:44,440 --> 00:31:47,440

may be done in pop culture,

521

00:31:47,800 --> 00:31:51,240
creating issues, but on the whole,

522

00:31:51,840 --> 00:31:54,520
I, I think it's, it's rose

523

00:31:54,520 --> 00:31:59,160
out of the existential situation
that we're all in.

524

00:31:59,600 --> 00:32:03,440
And it's great, certainly in terms of

525

00:32:03,440 --> 00:32:07,080
of engaging students
at the undergraduate level.

526

00:32:07,720 --> 00:32:11,040
It was great that they came in with,
you know, agendas

527

00:32:11,040 --> 00:32:14,640
and notions that they had not gotten
by reading scholarly

528

00:32:15,760 --> 00:32:18,520
text.

529

00:32:18,520 --> 00:32:21,160
This is definitely true,
that Food Studies has grown

530

00:32:21,160 --> 00:32:23,880
and thrived as a field.
And we've gotten to teach

531

00:32:23,880 --> 00:32:26,880

lots of undergraduate classes
in different departments.

532

00:32:26,960 --> 00:32:31,200

But food studies hasn't grown
infrastructurally, really well within

533

00:32:31,200 --> 00:32:35,040

institutions to have full departments or,
even full majors.

534

00:32:35,040 --> 00:32:36,840

And you know, that many places.

535

00:32:36,840 --> 00:32:40,920

And so what do you think about
that of like, why hasn't food studies,

536

00:32:41,760 --> 00:32:44,120

had more structural support
within the academy?

537

00:32:44,120 --> 00:32:47,080

Is it something to do with the academy,
something to do with the broader culture?

538

00:32:48,480 --> 00:32:48,880

Okay.

539

00:32:48,880 --> 00:32:51,960

So I think
it has a lot to do with the Academy.

540

00:32:53,360 --> 00:32:57,320

I know that at Hunter, where I taught

541

00:32:57,800 --> 00:33:00,360

pretty much my entire career, I spent one

542

00:33:00,360 --> 00:33:03,360
sabbatical,

543
00:33:03,520 --> 00:33:05,400
semester teaching at UC

544
00:33:05,400 --> 00:33:09,720
Santa Cruz,
which is about as far from Hunter College.

545
00:33:09,840 --> 00:33:13,280
We had one tree that kind of grew up
out of the well of where the,

546
00:33:14,720 --> 00:33:17,040
it goes down into the subway.

547
00:33:17,040 --> 00:33:21,400
And UC Santa Cruz
is like a continuation of of the woods.

548
00:33:21,440 --> 00:33:24,280
It was a sign on the,

549
00:33:24,280 --> 00:33:27,600
the door of the building
where my office was when I was there.

550
00:33:27,880 --> 00:33:29,400
Mountain lion alert.

551
00:33:29,400 --> 00:33:32,000
Because mountain lions
would come down from the back country,

552
00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:35,000
which really was continuous
with the campus to,

553

00:33:35,160 --> 00:33:37,800
to attack the deer
that wandered around the campus.

554
00:33:37,800 --> 00:33:41,160
So, it was a really great experience
for me to be there.

555
00:33:42,480 --> 00:33:45,480
But that's a little aside.

556
00:33:47,360 --> 00:33:49,600
And there were quite a lot of scholars

557
00:33:49,600 --> 00:33:53,320
there who were interested in food,
but no food studies program.

558
00:33:53,320 --> 00:33:58,920
But certainly at Hunter,
there had been a proliferation of,

559
00:34:00,680 --> 00:34:03,680
ethnic identity studies.

560
00:34:03,760 --> 00:34:06,000
And I think the administration

561
00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:09,320
just kind of reached its, cutoff

562
00:34:10,360 --> 00:34:10,760
point.

563
00:34:10,760 --> 00:34:14,960
I mean, I never made an active campaign
to to create a food studies

564
00:34:14,960 --> 00:34:20,360

program at Hunter because it worked
fine for me to teach the courses.

565

00:34:20,360 --> 00:34:23,760

I wanted to teach
within the sociology department.

566

00:34:25,920 --> 00:34:28,920

And I think there's a lot to be said for,

567

00:34:29,560 --> 00:34:32,760

what do they call it, boring
from within for,

568

00:34:34,320 --> 00:34:37,080

for bringing your unique

569

00:34:37,080 --> 00:34:41,760

interdisciplinary perspectives
into a traditional discipline.

570

00:34:42,880 --> 00:34:45,880

I think it wakes up your colleagues.

571

00:34:46,400 --> 00:34:49,200

So I didn't have a problem

572

00:34:49,200 --> 00:34:53,240

with the lack of food studies
programs per se.

573

00:34:53,520 --> 00:34:58,040

I, I don't think it's a discipline,
and I don't think it should ever,

574

00:35:00,000 --> 00:35:01,120

try to

575

00:35:01,120 --> 00:35:05,480

think of itself as a as a discipline
because it just has

576

00:35:05,600 --> 00:35:09,880
too many different methods,
central questions and what have you.

577

00:35:10,560 --> 00:35:12,960
It's tempting to say

578

00:35:12,960 --> 00:35:15,880
that our colleagues dismiss it

579

00:35:15,880 --> 00:35:19,000
as too much of popular culture

580

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:22,080
or, you know, not not a serious thing.

581

00:35:22,080 --> 00:35:23,880
But that's not my experience.

582

00:35:23,880 --> 00:35:27,240
I have not felt that from from colleagues.

583

00:35:28,280 --> 00:35:31,280
I spent a year as a dean,

584

00:35:32,280 --> 00:35:37,920
and it gave me more sympathy for the

585

00:35:38,280 --> 00:35:42,120
the decisions
that academic administrators have to make,

586

00:35:42,600 --> 00:35:46,080
because stopping a program

587

00:35:47,160 --> 00:35:49,640
is always unpopular.

588
00:35:49,640 --> 00:35:50,880
Okay?

589
00:35:50,880 --> 00:35:53,880
Nobody ever wants to, to end the School

590
00:35:53,880 --> 00:35:56,880
of Forestry or or,

591
00:35:56,920 --> 00:35:59,120
whatever else.

592
00:35:59,120 --> 00:36:02,240
Maybe that's a bad choice as an example.

593
00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:06,240
But if things go out of fashion

594
00:36:07,280 --> 00:36:10,800
and interdisciplinary programs

595
00:36:11,160 --> 00:36:15,120
lose their appeal to students
and the number of students dwindle,

596
00:36:16,160 --> 00:36:19,000
but there's almost never enthusiasm

597
00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:22,920
for cutting them, particularly
among the faculty members,

598
00:36:23,560 --> 00:36:29,520
who've invested their energy and resources
in, in promoting that.

599

00:36:29,720 --> 00:36:32,720

So, it's not,

600

00:36:33,760 --> 00:36:37,480

you know, it's not a let
a thousand flowers bloom situation.

601

00:36:37,480 --> 00:36:40,200

It's not easy.

602

00:36:40,200 --> 00:36:44,640

You're making life
difficult for your successors.

603

00:36:45,040 --> 00:36:48,400

If you say yes
to too many interdisciplinary

604

00:36:48,400 --> 00:36:51,400

programs.

605

00:36:52,160 --> 00:36:54,840

You know,
I think there's really useful insight.

606

00:36:54,840 --> 00:36:56,960

So the next question
is about the role of ASFS

607

00:36:56,960 --> 00:36:59,760

in sort of the scholarly production
of food studies.

608

00:36:59,760 --> 00:37:04,120

What role should it play in producing
monographs, journals, collections?

609

00:37:04,960 --> 00:37:07,160

Articles. What about digital products?

610

00:37:07,160 --> 00:37:10,160

What about public facing work?

611

00:37:10,440 --> 00:37:12,800

Well, the first thing I want to say is,

612

00:37:12,800 --> 00:37:19,200

I think ASFS was remarkably diligent
and quite successful

613

00:37:19,520 --> 00:37:24,320

in nurturing younger
scholars in in creating,

614

00:37:25,360 --> 00:37:27,960

places where they could publish,

615

00:37:27,960 --> 00:37:30,720

our journal and,

616

00:37:30,720 --> 00:37:33,720

some related journals.

617

00:37:34,800 --> 00:37:37,840

In offering

618

00:37:38,160 --> 00:37:41,640

financial assistance
to attend conferences.

619

00:37:43,800 --> 00:37:44,880

Awards of various.

620

00:37:44,880 --> 00:37:47,880

So I mean, I think we did our job

621

00:37:48,320 --> 00:37:51,720

of making it possible for young people

622

00:37:52,600 --> 00:37:56,720

in traditional disciplines to join us

623

00:37:56,720 --> 00:38:00,560

in the interdisciplinary exploration then

624

00:38:00,920 --> 00:38:03,920

and appreciation of, of food.

625

00:38:05,240 --> 00:38:08,160

As far as products and, and formats,

626

00:38:08,160 --> 00:38:11,240

I mean, I think collections of articles
are, are good.

627

00:38:13,200 --> 00:38:16,000

But I think the journal is excellent

628

00:38:16,000 --> 00:38:19,680

and continues to be a useful thing.

629

00:38:21,120 --> 00:38:23,120

I, I'm not a person who listens

630

00:38:23,120 --> 00:38:27,360

to podcasts or watches a lot of videos.

631

00:38:27,360 --> 00:38:31,400

It's just, I really like paper.

632

00:38:33,920 --> 00:38:36,920

So, I'm not the best

633

00:38:40,040 --> 00:38:42,760

person to consult about new directions.

634

00:38:42,760 --> 00:38:45,040

We we ought to be moving.

635

00:38:45,040 --> 00:38:49,840

And I trust the younger people
whom we have invited in and,

636

00:38:51,360 --> 00:38:54,360

help to make it possible for them
to participate,

637

00:38:54,520 --> 00:38:57,520

to take us in the new directions.

638

00:39:00,200 --> 00:39:03,200

ASFS TikToks.

639

00:39:03,720 --> 00:39:05,040

You spoke earlier about food's

640

00:39:05,040 --> 00:39:08,080

three pillars that production,
distribution, consumption,

641

00:39:08,960 --> 00:39:13,360

as practices that are also like outside
of traditional academic labor.

642

00:39:13,600 --> 00:39:17,560

And so the question here is how is food
studies scholarship work to integrate

643

00:39:17,560 --> 00:39:20,840

academic research
with the lived experience and labor

644

00:39:21,000 --> 00:39:24,080

of food producing communities,

and maybe what work is left

645

00:39:24,080 --> 00:39:27,080
to integrate better?

646

00:39:27,360 --> 00:39:30,440
Oh, well, I mean, I actually think

647

00:39:31,680 --> 00:39:36,400
the field has done
a fine job, has paid attention

648

00:39:36,800 --> 00:39:40,200
to the labor of food production,

649

00:39:40,200 --> 00:39:43,200
distribution and and consumption.

650

00:39:44,640 --> 00:39:46,520
You know,
I think of the Food Chain Workers

651

00:39:46,520 --> 00:39:51,960
Alliance in the advocacy world
as an organization

652

00:39:51,960 --> 00:39:55,480
that has, made the connections along

653

00:39:55,840 --> 00:39:59,160
from, from production through to at least,

654

00:40:00,120 --> 00:40:03,120
the restaurant end of, of consumption.

655

00:40:04,920 --> 00:40:06,000
And I know

656

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:11,200
at the CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute,
which is based in the School

657
00:40:11,200 --> 00:40:16,560
of Public Health at CUNY, where I begin
working immediately after retiring

658
00:40:16,720 --> 00:40:20,520
because we got a grant
that we'd been trying for for years.

659
00:40:20,520 --> 00:40:24,960
And we literally got it the week after
I signed the papers to retire.

660
00:40:26,080 --> 00:40:28,680
So too bad.

661
00:40:28,680 --> 00:40:33,520
But in any case, we had a strong alliance

662
00:40:33,520 --> 00:40:36,520
with the Food Chain Workers Alliance,

663
00:40:37,320 --> 00:40:41,040
in both local focus and,
and some of our national work.

664
00:40:41,680 --> 00:40:44,080
I think,

665
00:40:44,080 --> 00:40:48,240
I think the field of, of food
studies has done

666
00:40:48,240 --> 00:40:52,440
a good job of in doing work that

667

00:40:54,080 --> 00:40:57,080
elucidates and,

668
00:40:57,080 --> 00:41:00,080
calls attention to,

669
00:41:01,160 --> 00:41:01,760
urgent

670
00:41:01,760 --> 00:41:06,440
environmental concerns, health
concerns and social justice

671
00:41:06,720 --> 00:41:09,720
economic concerns.

672
00:41:09,960 --> 00:41:12,280
So and I don't

673
00:41:12,280 --> 00:41:15,720
I mean, we've certainly not left out
climate change.

674
00:41:15,720 --> 00:41:16,880
We haven't left out

675
00:41:18,320 --> 00:41:21,320
diet related health, but,

676
00:41:21,840 --> 00:41:24,280
I mean, I think it's one of the,

677
00:41:24,280 --> 00:41:28,800
the things to celebrate about the field

678
00:41:29,280 --> 00:41:31,880
is that it has done a good job

679

00:41:31,880 --> 00:41:34,600
of helping to connect

680
00:41:34,600 --> 00:41:37,920
the the issues that arise.

681
00:41:40,720 --> 00:41:42,320
So, our next set of questions

682
00:41:42,320 --> 00:41:45,720
are thinking about ASFS and cultural,
ethnic and class diversity.

683
00:41:46,080 --> 00:41:49,360
And so the first question is thinking
about how the field has diversified

684
00:41:49,360 --> 00:41:54,360
so much of disciplines,
topics, people, areas of the world.

685
00:41:54,360 --> 00:41:56,120
Right?
Like every thing we can think about.

686
00:41:56,120 --> 00:42:00,120
So the question is, has the diversity
of scholars involved in food studies

687
00:42:00,320 --> 00:42:04,160
been outpaced by the scholarship
in food studies? Why?

688
00:42:04,160 --> 00:42:07,160
And should there be steps to address that?

689
00:42:07,280 --> 00:42:10,840
Well, I think to an extent it has.

690

00:42:11,320 --> 00:42:15,000
You know, I think the
the scholarship is more diverse

691
00:42:15,000 --> 00:42:19,600
than the pool of scholars
or at least of scholars with

692
00:42:21,160 --> 00:42:24,960
tenure track and tenured jobs in academia.

693
00:42:27,960 --> 00:42:31,800
And I don't think that's our fault.

694
00:42:33,600 --> 00:42:36,680
I, I don't think that people

695
00:42:36,680 --> 00:42:41,160
are not getting tenure
because they work in food studies.

696
00:42:41,760 --> 00:42:45,640
And as long as they keep up
their disciplinary

697
00:42:46,800 --> 00:42:48,720
commitments.

698
00:42:48,720 --> 00:42:52,800
And I think there are some modest efforts

699
00:42:52,800 --> 00:42:55,800
by the organization to,

700
00:42:56,520 --> 00:43:01,240
to feature diversity
or to encourage diversity.

701
00:43:01,240 --> 00:43:03,200

There's a,

702

00:43:03,200 --> 00:43:05,280

a pedagogy

703

00:43:05,280 --> 00:43:07,320

effort,

704

00:43:07,320 --> 00:43:09,200

which, you know,

705

00:43:09,200 --> 00:43:13,600

pedagogy is the pipeline to the future

706

00:43:13,600 --> 00:43:15,920

professoriate.

707

00:43:15,920 --> 00:43:20,480

So, I don't fault us,

but I do think we need to continue

708

00:43:20,480 --> 00:43:21,760

to pay attention to it.

709

00:43:21,760 --> 00:43:25,520

And I think we need to not be,

710

00:43:27,040 --> 00:43:30,280

intimidated by the current

711

00:43:31,400 --> 00:43:34,400

opposition to DEI,

712

00:43:35,400 --> 00:43:39,360

and we need to be voices

within our universities

713

00:43:39,720 --> 00:43:44,880

to preserve efforts to diversify the, the,

714

00:43:46,760 --> 00:43:48,000

core of people

715

00:43:48,000 --> 00:43:51,440

who hold these

very wonderful, very privileged jobs.

716

00:43:54,080 --> 00:43:57,240

You spoke earlier about how you felt like,

ASFS has done a good job of bringing

717

00:43:57,240 --> 00:44:01,400

in younger scholars, passing on sort

of the generational wisdom of the field.

718

00:44:01,920 --> 00:44:05,320

We've talked about pedagogy

and teaching, to the diversity

719

00:44:05,320 --> 00:44:08,400

of the students in our classrooms,

given their lives and their backgrounds.

720

00:44:08,640 --> 00:44:12,360

Is there anything else that you can

think of that ASFS has done to encourage

721

00:44:12,360 --> 00:44:15,360

diversification of its membership

and its leadership?

722

00:44:15,720 --> 00:44:18,720

Interpreting diversity

there in every possible way we can.

723

00:44:19,520 --> 00:44:24,840

I went to the meeting

last summer in Syracuse.

724

00:44:25,040 --> 00:44:29,280

I was in town for
an another meeting of the for the Right

725

00:44:29,280 --> 00:44:33,360

to Food Community of Practice
was having a national summit,

726

00:44:34,120 --> 00:44:37,120

which was planned on purpose to be

727

00:44:38,080 --> 00:44:41,080

adjacent to the ASFS meeting.

728

00:44:43,280 --> 00:44:46,800

And I saw a more

729

00:44:46,800 --> 00:44:49,800

diverse group of scholars

730

00:44:50,760 --> 00:44:52,320

then I

731

00:44:52,320 --> 00:44:56,440

remembered from some of the
I retired in 2012.

732

00:44:56,680 --> 00:45:01,360

So it had been,
you know, a good it been a dozen years.

733

00:45:02,160 --> 00:45:05,160

And, you know, you haven't asked, but

734

00:45:06,120 --> 00:45:09,520

the reason I seldom went to meetings

735

00:45:09,520 --> 00:45:13,680
after I retired was
because I didn't have travel funds. And,

736
00:45:15,560 --> 00:45:18,920
it it never seemed a priority to go.

737
00:45:18,920 --> 00:45:21,400
I went,

738
00:45:21,400 --> 00:45:22,800
to the one in Pittsburgh

739
00:45:22,800 --> 00:45:25,800
because they invited me and put me up.

740
00:45:27,760 --> 00:45:31,840
So, so I think it was a more diverse

741
00:45:33,240 --> 00:45:35,280
and visibly a more diverse group.

742
00:45:35,280 --> 00:45:38,280
But I also think DEI as a

743
00:45:38,280 --> 00:45:42,640
major issue has been in that interim,
I mean, post

744
00:45:42,640 --> 00:45:46,760
George Floyd to to some extent,
and I wasn't active.

745
00:45:47,760 --> 00:45:51,480
So, I have to say, I think I don't know.

746
00:45:53,520 --> 00:45:56,400
It's still interesting
that it felt different when you returned.

747

00:45:56,400 --> 00:45:58,880

Like, that's still really interesting.

748

00:45:58,880 --> 00:46:02,520

Something you talked about is,
the emergence of food studies

749

00:46:02,520 --> 00:46:05,600

as a field emerge
at a lot of these other fields.

750

00:46:06,240 --> 00:46:10,360

I'm sorry, these other studies' fields,
when we think about, different identities

751

00:46:10,360 --> 00:46:12,400

from cultural studies
about women's and gender

752

00:46:12,400 --> 00:46:15,800

studies, African-American studies,
East Asian studies, Latinx studies.

753

00:46:16,320 --> 00:46:19,160

So to what extent do you think ASFS
as an organization

754

00:46:19,160 --> 00:46:23,040

and food studies
as a field is also a part of that story?

755

00:46:23,640 --> 00:46:27,080

Whether it's about the way we study things
or maybe some of what

756

00:46:27,080 --> 00:46:30,120

we talked about,
how we fit into institutions and not.

757

00:46:31,440 --> 00:46:34,440

That's an interesting question.

758

00:46:35,480 --> 00:46:38,760

I definitely think the idea is contagious,

759

00:46:39,360 --> 00:46:42,160

that you can choose a field

760

00:46:42,160 --> 00:46:45,600

and or choose an area of interest

761

00:46:45,960 --> 00:46:49,000

and make it an interdisciplinary field.

762

00:46:50,080 --> 00:46:52,480

There were very few

763

00:46:52,480 --> 00:46:56,440

when I was an undergraduate student
in the mid 1960s.

764

00:46:57,000 --> 00:47:00,360

I mean, there were departments
and they were traditional disciplines,

765

00:47:00,360 --> 00:47:03,360

and there were very few,

766

00:47:05,560 --> 00:47:08,240

interdisciplinary

767

00:47:08,240 --> 00:47:10,720

activities even.

768

00:47:10,720 --> 00:47:13,720

So, I think the idea it has

769

00:47:13,760 --> 00:47:16,760
has been somewhat contagious.

770

00:47:18,920 --> 00:47:21,000
And I think it's a good thing

771

00:47:21,000 --> 00:47:23,760
because in one sense,

772

00:47:23,760 --> 00:47:26,760
the old disciplines are,

773

00:47:27,760 --> 00:47:30,760
you know, maybe a little

774

00:47:31,320 --> 00:47:34,320
ossified.

775

00:47:34,880 --> 00:47:37,280
Less flexible.

776

00:47:37,280 --> 00:47:41,880
Less innovative
than interdisciplinary programs.

777

00:47:42,000 --> 00:47:45,240
So, yeah, I think that that the

778

00:47:45,600 --> 00:47:48,640
we did participate in that

779

00:47:49,880 --> 00:47:53,320
the term proliferation comes to mind,
which doesn't quite,

780

00:47:54,240 --> 00:47:57,880
have the flavor
that, I mean, but the, the.

781

00:48:00,840 --> 00:48:03,520

The expression of

782

00:48:03,520 --> 00:48:06,000

cross-disciplinary interests

783

00:48:06,000 --> 00:48:10,920

and the recognition

of the value of meeting and talking to

784

00:48:10,920 --> 00:48:13,920

and reading the work of people
from other disciplines.

785

00:48:16,840 --> 00:48:20,120

And I think we probably contributed

786

00:48:20,320 --> 00:48:23,160

contributed to

787

00:48:23,160 --> 00:48:26,160

this, expansion as well.

788

00:48:28,800 --> 00:48:29,240

So we're also

789

00:48:29,240 --> 00:48:32,240

in a moment of change, within food studies
and within,

790

00:48:32,240 --> 00:48:36,160

ASFS as we think
about, a sort of changing of the guard.

791

00:48:36,360 --> 00:48:39,960

And so is there anything that you're
seeing from, newer scholars,

792

00:48:39,960 --> 00:48:44,040
younger scholars,
that you find gaining traction

793

00:48:44,040 --> 00:48:47,040
and might shape
the future direction of ASFS?

794

00:48:50,320 --> 00:48:53,320
I don't think, I'm competent

795

00:48:54,360 --> 00:48:57,240
to to comment on that.

796

00:48:57,240 --> 00:49:01,400
Because I think
it would be really misleading to imply

797

00:49:01,400 --> 00:49:05,040
that I have kept up with the journals
since I retired.

798

00:49:07,200 --> 00:49:11,080
I, I continue to be active in advocacy,

799

00:49:11,760 --> 00:49:15,080
but not so much as a scholar.

800

00:49:16,600 --> 00:49:17,480
Pretty much.

801

00:49:17,480 --> 00:49:20,240
I mean, I did some work
the last couple of years

802

00:49:20,240 --> 00:49:23,240
with a colleague in Canada,

803

00:49:23,280 --> 00:49:25,120
about trying to

804
00:49:25,120 --> 00:49:29,000
to help to shape school food programs
as they emerge.

805
00:49:29,000 --> 00:49:32,000
There Canadian
have not traditionally had them.

806
00:49:33,120 --> 00:49:36,360
But my work is is advocacy driven.

807
00:49:36,600 --> 00:49:37,480
And so.

808
00:49:37,480 --> 00:49:42,000
Yeah, but I do have a warning or a caveat,

809
00:49:42,840 --> 00:49:45,840
which is,

810
00:49:45,960 --> 00:49:48,520
I find

811
00:49:48,520 --> 00:49:51,080
when I do pick up

812
00:49:51,080 --> 00:49:54,080
scholarly articles by younger scholars,

813
00:49:54,880 --> 00:49:57,880
I find a lot of the language off putting,

814
00:49:59,000 --> 00:50:00,600
I worked very hard

815

00:50:00,600 --> 00:50:07,000
when I wrote, and I still work very hard
when I write to make sure

816
00:50:07,000 --> 00:50:10,000
that what I write is accessible.

817
00:50:11,720 --> 00:50:15,120
And I don't like it

818
00:50:16,200 --> 00:50:19,720
when,
when people evolve a whole new language

819
00:50:19,920 --> 00:50:25,120
to to say things that I think could
be said in plain English.

820
00:50:28,200 --> 00:50:31,200
I share that critique for sure.

821
00:50:31,600 --> 00:50:33,200
And so it's okay if these are things

822
00:50:33,200 --> 00:50:36,280
that you're not as aware of
in the last few years, but thinking about,

823
00:50:36,960 --> 00:50:40,080
how ASFS is endeavored
to address the impact,

824
00:50:40,560 --> 00:50:44,440
that issues of culture, ethnic and class
diversity bring to the field.

825
00:50:45,000 --> 00:50:48,000
They're thinking about,
you know, the cost of membership,

826

00:50:48,000 --> 00:50:51,240
the themes of the conferences,
what the call for papers look like,

827

00:50:51,240 --> 00:50:52,800
the locations,

828

00:50:52,800 --> 00:50:56,920
all of these sort of logistics of how
we run ourselves and how that's influenced

829

00:50:56,920 --> 00:50:59,920
what we're able to do
and the people we do it with.

830

00:51:00,440 --> 00:51:01,000
Yeah.

831

00:51:01,000 --> 00:51:05,240
And I think, you know, my impression
is that they've done a pretty good job.

832

00:51:06,400 --> 00:51:07,960
You know,

833

00:51:07,960 --> 00:51:12,240
in the context of the kind of inequality
we have in the United States now,

834

00:51:12,840 --> 00:51:17,120
which is at an outrageous
level, is historically,

835

00:51:18,400 --> 00:51:19,560
I believe we are now

836

00:51:19,560 --> 00:51:22,560
more unequal
than we were in the Roaring 20s.

837

00:51:23,800 --> 00:51:27,000

And literally three people own
as much wealth

838

00:51:27,000 --> 00:51:29,720

as the bottom half of our population.

839

00:51:29,720 --> 00:51:32,720

So, in that context,

840

00:51:32,800 --> 00:51:37,080

there's no way to make the benefits of

841

00:51:38,360 --> 00:51:42,400

our organization readily available to, to

842

00:51:43,360 --> 00:51:46,360

just as there's no

843

00:51:46,680 --> 00:51:51,320

cure or way to open the doors
to becoming a, a professor.

844

00:51:51,320 --> 00:51:54,600

We have pipeline programs and programs.

845

00:51:54,600 --> 00:51:57,480

We we try

846

00:51:57,480 --> 00:51:58,880

the City University of New York

847

00:51:58,880 --> 00:52:01,880

probably tries harder than most.

848

00:52:03,480 --> 00:52:07,320

But if we don't confront

the underlying inequality,

849

00:52:08,040 --> 00:52:11,040

we won't get very far.

850

00:52:12,520 --> 00:52:16,080

So, as you think about the strengths
and weaknesses of ASFS

851

00:52:16,080 --> 00:52:19,400

to be a platform
for exactly that kind of accessibility,

852

00:52:20,040 --> 00:52:23,840

what do you think those are our strengths
and our weaknesses there?

853

00:52:24,560 --> 00:52:28,840

Well, I go back to those experiences
I had in undergraduate teaching,

854

00:52:29,640 --> 00:52:32,880

often started the course
at the beginning of the year by saying,

855

00:52:32,880 --> 00:52:34,440

what did you have for breakfast?

856

00:52:34,440 --> 00:52:40,680

And we went around the circle,
and then we kind of interrogated it and

857

00:52:41,200 --> 00:52:44,040

tried to figure out explanations for why

858

00:52:44,040 --> 00:52:47,520

we were eating, what we were eating,
and we were off to a good start.

859

00:52:48,480 --> 00:52:49,680
And I think

860
00:52:49,680 --> 00:52:53,840
that same existential characteristic

861
00:52:53,840 --> 00:52:57,720
that we all eat, most of us every day,

862
00:52:58,840 --> 00:53:01,840
and we care about what we eat.

863
00:53:03,560 --> 00:53:08,560
Puts us in a position to empower people

864
00:53:08,560 --> 00:53:12,760
to claim their own expertise

865
00:53:13,680 --> 00:53:17,560
and then seek additional expertise to

866
00:53:18,680 --> 00:53:21,680
expand it to pursue,

867
00:53:23,880 --> 00:53:26,520
topics
that that grow out of their interest.

868
00:53:26,520 --> 00:53:30,480
I think about all the students I've had
who had worked in a community garden

869
00:53:31,240 --> 00:53:34,320
at some point in high school or summers or

870
00:53:34,360 --> 00:53:37,320
what have you, and

871

00:53:37,320 --> 00:53:39,600
to

872
00:53:39,600 --> 00:53:43,440
it's just because eating is so central
to human activity,

873
00:53:44,760 --> 00:53:48,080
it creates a platform.

874
00:53:48,720 --> 00:53:52,080
It it creates a doorway
that can be pretty wide open.

875
00:53:52,880 --> 00:53:56,560
So I think we need to build on that,

876
00:53:56,560 --> 00:53:59,560
and I think we have built on it.

877
00:54:02,400 --> 00:54:04,120
One of the ways we've been trying to build

878
00:54:04,120 --> 00:54:08,280
is grappling with the fact of,
are we an institution primarily

879
00:54:08,280 --> 00:54:12,840
for North American scholars
or are we an international organization?

880
00:54:12,840 --> 00:54:17,160
And the efforts
it takes to, try and encourage and support

881
00:54:17,520 --> 00:54:20,520
presentations from scholars
from all over the world?

882

00:54:20,880 --> 00:54:23,400
What are your thoughts about ASFS

883
00:54:23,400 --> 00:54:26,400
when it comes to its national identity?

884
00:54:26,400 --> 00:54:29,040
And its efforts
to be an international organization?

885
00:54:30,160 --> 00:54:32,160
Right.

886
00:54:32,160 --> 00:54:35,160
Well.

887
00:54:35,680 --> 00:54:38,680
I'm torn because

888
00:54:39,280 --> 00:54:43,040
realistically, very few institutions

889
00:54:43,800 --> 00:54:46,800
these days have the resources to,

890
00:54:48,960 --> 00:54:51,120
for international travel.

891
00:54:51,120 --> 00:54:54,360
I would I think it's great
that we have met in Canada.

892
00:54:56,160 --> 00:54:59,160
And perhaps we could meet in Mexico.

893
00:55:00,960 --> 00:55:03,840
But I wouldn't support a resolution

894

00:55:03,840 --> 00:55:06,840
to have our next meeting in Paris.

895
00:55:07,760 --> 00:55:10,960
I just think that aggravates the

896
00:55:12,520 --> 00:55:16,200
the class related barriers
to participation.

897
00:55:19,960 --> 00:55:22,000
I don't want to exclude

898
00:55:22,000 --> 00:55:25,720
any scholars from other countries

899
00:55:26,000 --> 00:55:29,640
who are interested in participating,

900
00:55:30,120 --> 00:55:33,240
but mostly I think they should go home and

901
00:55:33,760 --> 00:55:36,760
and form their own.

902
00:55:37,520 --> 00:55:40,520
You know, Nordic food

903
00:55:41,240 --> 00:55:44,240
experience.

904
00:55:44,280 --> 00:55:46,800
Clusters of of areas

905
00:55:46,800 --> 00:55:50,080
where travel for conferences is feasible.

906
00:55:50,560 --> 00:55:53,560

I know we could do conferences on Zoom.

907

00:55:55,400 --> 00:55:58,040

At the CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute,

908

00:55:58,040 --> 00:56:02,480

we have been able to bring scholars

909

00:56:02,480 --> 00:56:07,040

from all around the world

to talk to a primarily New York

910

00:56:07,640 --> 00:56:12,240

audience via

the magic of Zoom, where we could no way

911

00:56:12,240 --> 00:56:16,560

afford to bring them here in an airplane

and put them up in New York City.

912

00:56:18,440 --> 00:56:18,840

And I

913

00:56:18,840 --> 00:56:21,960

think it's

appropriate for that kind of activity,

914

00:56:21,960 --> 00:56:24,960

but I would hate to see ASFS

915

00:56:25,400 --> 00:56:28,400

lose the face to face meetings.

916

00:56:28,560 --> 00:56:31,840

I think that the friendships

that are created

917

00:56:31,840 --> 00:56:35,720

and the relationships

and the shared experiences

918

00:56:35,720 --> 00:56:40,200

on the field trips

and the shared meals are really important.

919

00:56:40,520 --> 00:56:45,400

And we're certainly important to me

and my years of regular participation.

920

00:56:45,400 --> 00:56:49,400

And, you know,

yes, ASFS has a great capacity

921

00:56:49,400 --> 00:56:53,160

for enjoying the our meetings were fun.

922

00:56:53,520 --> 00:56:57,800

They were much more fun than

than other academic meetings I attended.

923

00:56:58,880 --> 00:57:01,560

Joyful really in in many cases.

924

00:57:01,560 --> 00:57:04,560

And I think it's the joy of food.

925

00:57:05,400 --> 00:57:08,400

So I don't,

926

00:57:11,400 --> 00:57:14,400

imagine an ASFS

927

00:57:14,560 --> 00:57:18,480

that would be equally representative

928

00:57:18,480 --> 00:57:21,480

of other regions of the world.

929

00:57:21,560 --> 00:57:24,040

And I, I don't

930

00:57:24,040 --> 00:57:26,280

and if we have the kind of recession

931

00:57:26,280 --> 00:57:29,320

that I wake up in the middle
of the night worrying about,

932

00:57:30,960 --> 00:57:33,360

we won't any of us have

933

00:57:33,360 --> 00:57:35,440

the resources to to travel abroad

934

00:57:35,440 --> 00:57:38,440

for meetings or bring people here.

935

00:57:38,520 --> 00:57:41,520

So, maybe it's a pessimism of the moment.

936

00:57:42,240 --> 00:57:45,480

But I think that there's plenty to do

937

00:57:46,440 --> 00:57:49,440

to understand and learn from.

938

00:57:50,280 --> 00:57:53,280

And the there

939

00:57:54,240 --> 00:57:57,320

are so many hyphenated Americans,

940

00:57:59,240 --> 00:58:01,560

who bring food cultures

941

00:58:01,560 --> 00:58:04,560
with all kinds of wisdom embedded in them

942
00:58:05,040 --> 00:58:09,480
that I don't think we need to

943
00:58:10,600 --> 00:58:12,880
have, you know, UN style

944
00:58:12,880 --> 00:58:16,200
meetings with simultaneous interpretation

945
00:58:16,200 --> 00:58:19,200
for 90 languages to,

946
00:58:19,240 --> 00:58:22,880
to benefit from the
the wisdom of other food cultures.

947
00:58:23,240 --> 00:58:26,240
So it maybe

948
00:58:27,000 --> 00:58:29,400
I'm showing my age because I'm tired

949
00:58:29,400 --> 00:58:32,400
than I used to be.

950
00:58:33,080 --> 00:58:37,080
But I, I don't see us needing
to be a global

951
00:58:38,760 --> 00:58:41,760
organization.

952
00:58:42,480 --> 00:58:46,040
It's completely fair to feel pessimistic
in this particular moment,

953

00:58:46,360 --> 00:58:49,680
but in our last questions,
we get to shift to an optimistic

954

00:58:49,680 --> 00:58:53,280
sort of hope for the future
as we think about the next 40 years

955

00:58:53,520 --> 00:58:56,520
for food studies as a field and for ASFS,

956

00:58:56,680 --> 00:59:01,320
what are your hopes for food studies
and for the for ASFS in the next 40?

957

00:59:04,160 --> 00:59:07,160
Well, I hope that

958

00:59:07,480 --> 00:59:11,280
the organization
will pay more attention to inequality,

959

00:59:11,520 --> 00:59:15,320
to the underlying inequality
of wealth and income.

960

00:59:15,960 --> 00:59:17,560
That is the context.

961

00:59:17,560 --> 00:59:21,640
You know, now, I'm you know,
I came from a department of sociology.

962

00:59:22,680 --> 00:59:25,480
So this is just this is in a sense, it's

963

00:59:25,480 --> 00:59:29,920
a sociologist saying pay attention to the
the core issue.

964
00:59:30,240 --> 00:59:32,800
But I

965
00:59:32,800 --> 00:59:36,600
am concerned about our nation

966
00:59:36,800 --> 00:59:41,160
and we, I think, are paying the price

967
00:59:41,160 --> 00:59:45,000
for having not paid enough
attention to inequality,

968
00:59:45,000 --> 00:59:49,840
not having cared enough, back
when I was giving Sweet Charity talks,

969
00:59:50,320 --> 00:59:55,120
I used to give a talk or a part of my talk
about

970
00:59:56,200 --> 01:00:00,000
the people who care about poor people
and are therefore

971
01:00:00,000 --> 01:00:04,040
volunteering in soup kitchens and food
pantries and conducting food drives.

972
01:00:04,040 --> 01:00:07,600
And when have you needing to pay
more attention to what was happening

973
01:00:07,600 --> 01:00:11,280
at the top of the income
and wealth distribution?

974
01:00:12,480 --> 01:00:13,480

Because

975

01:00:13,480 --> 01:00:16,760

we were moving rapidly
in the wrong direction

976

01:00:16,760 --> 01:00:20,160

and more and more concentration of wealth
in fewer and fewer hands.

977

01:00:21,240 --> 01:00:25,880

And obviously, I didn't say it long enough
and loud enough

978

01:00:25,880 --> 01:00:30,360

and what have you to have any impact,
or at least much impact.

979

01:00:31,200 --> 01:00:33,600

But I would like to see our field

980

01:00:33,600 --> 01:00:36,600

pay more attention to to inequality.

981

01:00:38,040 --> 01:00:42,040

And I think climate change is another

982

01:00:43,200 --> 01:00:47,760

big issue
that we cannot pay too much attention to.

983

01:00:48,680 --> 01:00:49,160

Right.

984

01:00:49,160 --> 01:00:52,160

I think,

985

01:00:53,600 --> 01:00:54,840

I mean, it's clear

986

01:00:54,840 --> 01:00:58,640

that where food is grown
and how food is grown

987

01:00:59,760 --> 01:01:02,760

is changing and will have to change.

988

01:01:02,800 --> 01:01:08,880

Looking out the back window here
at a cherry tree that normally blooms on

989

01:01:09,120 --> 01:01:11,920

my husband's birthday, April 12th,

990

01:01:11,920 --> 01:01:14,920

and is now starting to bloom today.

991

01:01:16,320 --> 01:01:17,880

That's, you know,

992

01:01:17,880 --> 01:01:20,880

I mean, that's
within the last 3 or 4 years.

993

01:01:21,400 --> 01:01:24,120

So I think the signs are all around us

994

01:01:24,120 --> 01:01:27,760

that we're on a trajectory
where there will be massive

995

01:01:28,840 --> 01:01:31,920

changes in food systems

996

01:01:32,760 --> 01:01:37,280

and whether we can adapt readily
enough quickly enough.

997

01:01:38,160 --> 01:01:40,120

I'm not convinced.

998

01:01:40,120 --> 01:01:42,800

And I also think that there are going
to be

999

01:01:42,800 --> 01:01:45,800

massive relocations of human population.

1000

01:01:47,240 --> 01:01:50,880

And we are so unready as a society

1001

01:01:51,480 --> 01:01:56,920

to welcome the numbers of people
that we're going.

1002

01:01:57,080 --> 01:02:00,920

I mean, we are, for the time being,

1003

01:02:00,920 --> 01:02:05,520

in a belt of the earth
that that, is still habitable.

1004

01:02:06,160 --> 01:02:07,600

We'll see.

1005

01:02:07,600 --> 01:02:10,600

So, you know,

1006

01:02:11,680 --> 01:02:15,520

I just hope that we're doing
enough of that work

1007

01:02:16,480 --> 01:02:19,480

in in the work of food studies.

1008

01:02:22,240 --> 01:02:22,720

So, as you thought

1009

01:02:22,720 --> 01:02:26,480
about preparing for this
and reflecting on the 40 years of ASFS,

1010

01:02:26,640 --> 01:02:29,600
are there any memories, any stories
that we haven't talked about that

1011

01:02:29,600 --> 01:02:32,600
we should make sure we cover today?

1012

01:02:38,160 --> 01:02:40,400
Well, memories is a funny thing.

1013

01:02:42,200 --> 01:02:44,880
And I think a lot of my

1014

01:02:44,880 --> 01:02:48,400
ASFS conference memories are, are merged

1015

01:02:49,480 --> 01:02:54,600
into this great appreciation for,
as I say, the field trips.

1016

01:02:54,960 --> 01:02:57,720
I remember a field trip from,

1017

01:02:57,720 --> 01:03:00,720
the session that was held it at Penn State

1018

01:03:00,800 --> 01:03:04,920
out into the valley
where the very traditional Mennonites

1019

01:03:05,480 --> 01:03:08,480
are using very traditional
farming practices

1020

01:03:08,880 --> 01:03:12,680
and not letting their daughters
go beyond high school

1021

01:03:13,920 --> 01:03:16,920
if that and

1022

01:03:17,520 --> 01:03:20,880
both the, the charm

1023

01:03:21,680 --> 01:03:24,680
of seeing the old

1024

01:03:25,240 --> 01:03:28,920
methods of farming
that we need to pay more attention to

1025

01:03:29,680 --> 01:03:32,680
and the discomfort I felt

1026

01:03:33,080 --> 01:03:37,440
with as a, as a woman
and a feminist with these young girls

1027

01:03:37,440 --> 01:03:41,320
whose horizons
were being so deeply foreclosed.

1028

01:03:41,320 --> 01:03:44,760
And I think a lot of the field trips
that I went on

1029

01:03:44,760 --> 01:03:48,040
with ASFS annual meetings were,

1030

01:03:50,560 --> 01:03:53,480
you know, profoundly thought provoking.

1031
01:03:53,480 --> 01:03:55,680
They they weren't just interesting.

1032
01:03:55,680 --> 01:03:56,480
Oh, it's interesting.

1033
01:03:56,480 --> 01:03:59,480
They they were,

1034
01:03:59,640 --> 01:04:02,640
deeply engaging. And,

1035
01:04:02,640 --> 01:04:05,400
I, as I say,

1036
01:04:05,400 --> 01:04:08,400
the different meetings
are kind of merged together,

1037
01:04:08,560 --> 01:04:12,240
but that's one of the things
that that I recall is that

1038
01:04:12,960 --> 01:04:15,960
I don't think I ever went to a field trip

1039
01:04:16,360 --> 01:04:19,360
that was, I felt was a waste of time.

1040
01:04:19,440 --> 01:04:20,040
Yeah.

1041
01:04:20,040 --> 01:04:24,200
They were really so well planned,
well organized.

1042
01:04:24,520 --> 01:04:26,760
And I'm grateful to the people

who did that work.

1043

01:04:26,760 --> 01:04:29,960

It's a lot of work,
as you probably know, to

1044

01:04:30,000 --> 01:04:33,360

be the host institution
for a conference like this.

1045

01:04:33,360 --> 01:04:37,400

And I owe a debt of gratitude
to the people who were willing to

1046

01:04:37,680 --> 01:04:40,680

to take that on.

1047

01:04:42,160 --> 01:04:43,600

No. Absolutely.

1048

01:04:43,600 --> 01:04:46,440

So much gratitude for that.

1049

01:04:46,440 --> 01:04:49,320

We have seven minutes of free time left.

1050

01:04:49,320 --> 01:04:53,040

Is there anything else, as you think about
what makes ASFS special,

1051

01:04:53,280 --> 01:04:56,800

the role it's played in your career,
in your scholarship, the community

1052

01:04:56,800 --> 01:04:59,640

it's build, anything else?

We want to make sure we cover?

1053

01:05:01,920 --> 01:05:05,880

Well, I was I was very grateful to have,

1054

01:05:06,640 --> 01:05:10,200

Free for All recognized
as a book of the year.

1055

01:05:11,760 --> 01:05:13,440

It, you know, school food

1056

01:05:13,440 --> 01:05:16,440

is one of those topics that,

1057

01:05:17,360 --> 01:05:20,360

doesn't sound like,

1058

01:05:20,680 --> 01:05:22,640

cutting edge scholarship

1059

01:05:22,640 --> 01:05:25,200

when you say you're studying school food,

1060

01:05:25,200 --> 01:05:29,880

it's kind of how people feel about,
you know, it's like the weather.

1061

01:05:29,880 --> 01:05:32,880

Everybody complains about it,
but nobody can do anything about it.

1062

01:05:33,200 --> 01:05:38,040

Only actually, a great deal
has been happening to improve school food.

1063

01:05:38,280 --> 01:05:40,360

But I,

1064

01:05:40,360 --> 01:05:43,360

I'm not.

1065
01:05:43,360 --> 01:05:45,120
On the whole,

1066
01:05:45,120 --> 01:05:51,240
a big fan of awards,
and I've never really wanted

1067
01:05:51,240 --> 01:05:54,760
to put my effort into
to creating them or perpetuating them,

1068
01:05:54,760 --> 01:05:58,880
but I was very glad for that, both
because it was great for me personally

1069
01:05:59,400 --> 01:06:03,840
and because it validated the the topic.

1070
01:06:05,400 --> 01:06:08,400
And maybe a lot of ASFS

1071
01:06:09,080 --> 01:06:12,920
folks have had the experience

1072
01:06:12,920 --> 01:06:17,280
of feeling their topic validated

1073
01:06:18,200 --> 01:06:21,120
in our community
in a way that perhaps it wasn't

1074
01:06:21,120 --> 01:06:24,840
by the the more traditional scholars
in their disciplines.

1075
01:06:25,440 --> 01:06:28,440
So I think ASFS

1076

01:06:28,920 --> 01:06:33,760
has made good use,
effective use, responsible

1077
01:06:33,920 --> 01:06:37,080
use of the techniques

1078
01:06:37,080 --> 01:06:40,080
that exist for encouraging scholarship.

1079
01:06:40,280 --> 01:06:43,320
So, I think the student paper awards

1080
01:06:43,800 --> 01:06:48,640
are a great thing to
and for some students, it's

1081
01:06:48,640 --> 01:06:51,640
the first time
they ever considered an academic career.

1082
01:06:53,280 --> 01:06:56,280
And the the

1083
01:06:56,840 --> 01:06:59,840
journal has been usually,

1084
01:07:00,320 --> 01:07:03,320
as far as I could see,

1085
01:07:03,360 --> 01:07:06,360
willing to help scholars

1086
01:07:06,360 --> 01:07:09,360
improve their,
their work and their writing.

1087
01:07:10,120 --> 01:07:12,840
So I, I think we've, we've done

1088

01:07:12,840 --> 01:07:15,840
a pretty good job of,

1089

01:07:15,960 --> 01:07:17,520
nurturing

1090

01:07:17,520 --> 01:07:20,160
younger scholars as they come along and,

1091

01:07:21,480 --> 01:07:25,320
helping
mid-career and established scholars

1092

01:07:25,800 --> 01:07:28,800
find the right audiences for their work

1093

01:07:29,560 --> 01:07:32,560
and I you know, I don't

1094

01:07:32,920 --> 01:07:35,760
it sounds like kind of collectively

1095

01:07:35,760 --> 01:07:40,200
self-congratulatory,
but I do think we need to celebrate

1096

01:07:40,560 --> 01:07:44,040
the achievements, celebrate
what we've done

1097

01:07:44,040 --> 01:07:45,800
well.

1098

01:07:45,800 --> 01:07:48,040
We have come a long way.

1099

01:07:48,040 --> 01:07:53,880

You you asked about milestones, and
I think about the the first New York City

1100

01:07:53,880 --> 01:07:57,280
meeting at NYU pretty early

1101

01:07:57,280 --> 01:08:00,280
in the organization's evolution.

1102

01:08:01,160 --> 01:08:04,160
And again, the Annie Hauck-Lawson

1103

01:08:04,760 --> 01:08:07,760
organized a whole bunch of field trips,

1104

01:08:08,760 --> 01:08:13,200
that were absolutely terrific, for showing

1105

01:08:14,200 --> 01:08:18,040
visiting scholars from other areas,
some of the, the

1106

01:08:18,120 --> 01:08:21,120
a different kind of diversity of New York.

1107

01:08:21,240 --> 01:08:24,240
But that was also a meeting where

1108

01:08:24,240 --> 01:08:27,240
because so many people

1109

01:08:27,240 --> 01:08:30,240
studying and writing about food

1110

01:08:30,480 --> 01:08:33,840
were based in New York,
that I think the organization

1111

01:08:33,840 --> 01:08:37,520
probably experienced
a surge in membership.

1112
01:08:38,040 --> 01:08:42,320
So I'm grateful to the Food Studies
program at NYU

1113
01:08:42,640 --> 01:08:46,440
for giving the organization
the kind of boost that at that point.

1114
01:08:49,880 --> 01:08:50,400
Alright

1115
01:08:50,400 --> 01:08:53,040
I've so enjoyed
getting to talk with you today

1116
01:08:53,040 --> 01:08:55,560
and to hear your memories
and your stories,

1117
01:08:55,560 --> 01:08:58,560
thinking about ASFS
and this field of food studies.

1118
01:08:59,320 --> 01:09:03,560
And so I hope you know how influential
you've been in many of our educations,

1119
01:09:04,040 --> 01:09:06,240
and how we think about what food is
and why it matters,

1120
01:09:06,240 --> 01:09:08,040
and that focus on inequality
and that we should

1121
01:09:08,040 --> 01:09:11,880

all be focused on policy and not just
analyzing texts and, you know,

1122

01:09:11,880 --> 01:09:15,440
doing armchair, you know, faculty work,
academic work in the mind.

1123

01:09:16,120 --> 01:09:16,400
But so

1124

01:09:16,400 --> 01:09:19,400
thank you so much for this opportunity
to get to speak with you today.

1125

01:09:20,160 --> 01:09:20,480
Thank you.