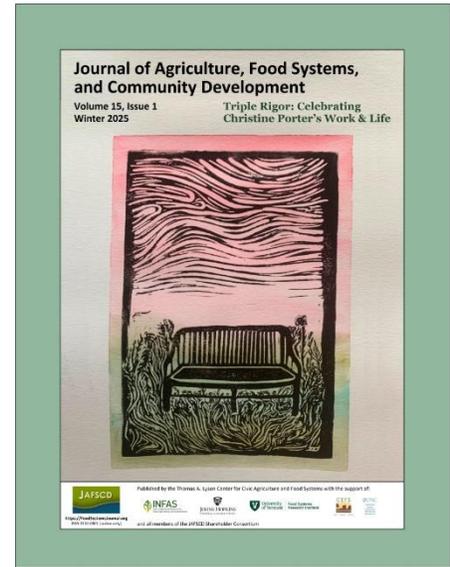


**IN THIS ISSUE**  
**DUNCAN HILCHEY**

**Triple rigor: Celebrating Christine Porter's Work & life**



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In this issue, we offer a festschrift<sup>1</sup> in honor of our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Christine M. Porter (University of Wyoming). As a teacher, mentor, scholar, and activist (among other roles), Christine championed the ideas of “food dignity” and “triple-rigorous” research (including epistemological, ethical, and emotional rigor). She challenged us to be transparent and honest with our research subjects and ourselves and in all our “capital-w Work.” This festschrift, which includes a collection of peer-reviewed and reflective essays authored by mentees and peers, has been thoughtfully curated by Christine’s close friend and collaborator, Rachael Budowle, collegiate assistant professor at Virginia Tech. On our cover is Christine’s vision of the bench where friends and loved ones can visit her into the future, a linocut print by Shannon Conk called “An Invitation: Christine’s Bench in the Meadow.” As this special section tribute was intended to be published before her passing (in July 2024), Christine was able to make her own contribution, in her essay *Comfort*, which incorporates a description of the bench and its meaning to her.

*On our cover:* Dr. Christine M. Porter’s vision of the bench where friends and loved ones could visit her into the future inspired this linocut print, “An Invitation: Christine’s Bench in the Meadow” by Shannon Conk (October 2024).

Portrait of Christine M. Porter courtesy of the University of Wyoming, Department of Community & Public Health.

<sup>1</sup> A festschrift (from German, meaning “celebration writing”) is a collection of writings published in honor of a scholar.

Outlining the contents of the festschrift is the essay *Triple rigor: An introduction to the special issue celebrating Christine Porter's Work and life*, by **Rachael Budowle** and **Christine Porter** (posthumously). I recommend reading this first as it also provides a foundational overview of Christine's work and suggests how the JAFSCD community may incorporate triple rigor in our review process.

Following the festschrift is our open-call content. I believe Christine would have loved this issue—not because of the festschrift in her honor, nor because the content that follows the festschrift in this issue is unique or special in any way, but for the simple reason that it is typical of JAFSCD's content, covering the three domains of the food system, with themes encouraging grassroots engagement; private-public partnerships; justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; transparency; reflexivity and positionality; and, perhaps above all, the dignity of people who are disenfranchised.

In his Economic Pamphleteer column, *The need for radical change in access to farmland*, **John Ikerd** once again pushes boundaries by proposing the idea that government could provide economic incentives for subdividing farmland into smaller farms rather than into residential lots, which is typically considered its most valuable use.

This is followed by several viewpoints, a commentary, and a program brief, including *Advancing local food systems despite deep federal budget cuts: An example from Silicon Valley, California, USA*, by **Susan Chen, Laura Vollmer, Garry Sotnik, Lucy Diekmann, and Christopher Bacon**; *From hazard to hope: Congolese women farmers' perspectives on reducing pesticide use in vegetable production*, by **Arsene Mushagalusa Balasha, Dominique Aganze Mulume, Benjamin Murhula Balasha, and Alex Tambwe Nyumbaiza**; *Agency in resilient local food systems*, by **Jim Worstell**; and *Dialogue on maize seeds: Are smallholder farmers' voices heard in building climate-resilient food systems?* by **Arsene Mushagalusa Balasha**. Wrapping up our preliminaries, **Karen Foster** offers a program brief entitled *Common Ground Canada Network: Building relationships for just and sustainable agriculture and food systems transitions*.

Our open call peer-reviewed content begins with two papers focused on urban agriculture (UA) in Europe and Canada. In *Collaborative governance in urban agriculture: Stakeholder roles, collaborative mechanisms, and power dynamics*, **Svetla Stoeva** presents findings from an analysis of 14 UA programs in Europe, illuminating not only the wide range of organizational structures, but also the often-debilitating top-down nature these programs. Similarly, **Richard Bloomfield, Kassie Miedema, Deishin Lee, Rebecca Ellis, and Joe Nasr** offer an in-depth case study of a single UA program to examine the institutional barriers to expanding urban food production—and offer potential strategies for overcoming them—in *Growing pains: Successes and barriers in London, Ontario's urban agriculture strategy*. Next, **Tyler Swanson, Andrea Gerlak, Greg Barron-Gafford, and Laurel Bellante** present a mixed-method case study of a public-private partnership to co-produce food and energy in their article *Developing crop-based agrivoltaic systems: A case study of Jack's Solar Garden*. In *Local food system vitality in the Southern U.S.: A resident perspective*, **Azita Varziri, Timothy Woods, Jairus Rossi, and Shuoli Zhao** developed a new analytical method to find differences in priorities of small and large communities, providing a foundation for more nuanced approaches in strategies to build local food systems.

In this issue, we include several articles focusing on value chains. In *Opportunities for locally produced ingredients in Pennsylvania's craft brewing industry*, **Claudia Schmidt, Arian Moghadam, and Neil Reid** present the results of a survey of brewpubs and microbreweries to explore the opportunities and barriers for connecting them with hop and grain growers. Next, **Edna Ely-Ledesma and Hanbing Liang** shed light on the benefits having online direct-to-consumer sales during local food supply disruptions, in *Farmers markets' transition to online sales during the COVID-19 pandemic: Case study of Sonoma and Marin counties, California*.

Then we move on to articles focusing on community food security. In *Conceptualizing food justice in the food charity system in Prince George's County, Maryland, USA*, **Caroline Boules, Vanessa Frías-Martínez, Maya Chelminsky, and Solana Page** examine the potential for increasing the agency of food-pantry clients through greater food choice, better nutrition, more convenience, and more education. **M. Devyn Mullis, Stephanie Staras, Antionette McFarlane, Marta Hansen, Caterina Alacevich, Gerard Duncan, Karla**

**Shelnutt, Carma Bylund, Grant Harrell, Steven Smith, and Carla Fisher** make similar conclusions as Boules et al. for a special-needs population in *Reducing hypertension with adults experiencing food insecurity in low-income communities: Identifying intervention strategies and facilitators/barriers*.

In *Racial or social equity framework use among food policy councils and associations with councils' COVID-19 responses*, **Abiodun Atoloye, Larissa Calancie, Jessica Luong, Karen Bassarab, Amy Borg, Natasha Frost, Anne Palmer, and Kristen Cooksey Stowers** present the findings of a large national survey of FPCs, including that having a paid coordinator appears to increase the chances of engaging with disenfranchised communities of color. **Rachel Thomas Tharmabalan** next proposes a novel approach for building resistance and resilience in Indigenous communities in the article *Empowering Orang Asli communities through an integrative approach to sustainable food sovereignty*.

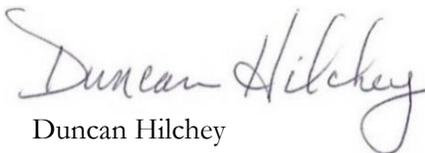
In *The potential of bottom-up initiatives to produce a just transformation toward sustainable food consumption*, **Ana Vivas, Vasileios Chatzimpyros, Christos Stergiadis, Burcu Borhan Türeli, Andrei Holman, Simona Popusoi, and Carolin Zorell** find that coupling innovative grassroots programming with top-down public policies improves the prospects of socially vulnerable individuals to make healthier and more environmentally responsible food choices.

In *The contribution of Ghana's Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) intervention to rural household food security achievement: Case study of Karaga District*, **Imrana Bambila Ibrahim** concludes that while the innovative PFJ program has increased household food production and food security, it may also be inadvertently promoting government dependency.

We wrap the issue with five book reviewers: **David Fazzino** reviews *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*, by Seth Holmes. **Eilif Ronning** reviews *The Accidental Seed Heroes*, by Adam Alexander. **Kaitlyn Harper** reviews *Food Justice in American Cities*, by Sabine O'Hara. **Al Dilozeno** reviews *Planning Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems: From Soil to Soil*, by Julia Freedgood, and **Alejandro Ibrahim** reviews *Food Power Politics: The Food Story of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement*, by Bobby J. Smith II.

In a final word about Christine Porter, I want to announce that JAFSCD will be exploring the development of a Triple Rigor Editorial Circle in 2026. **Rachael Budowle** and **Christine Porter** (posthumously) offer more details about this idea in their introductory essay to the festschrift. This working group will advise JAFSCD's editorial staff, reviewers, and authors on engaging with the precepts of triple rigor in conducting and sharing community-based and transformation-oriented research on food systems. We believe this is a fitting vehicle for continuing the impactful legacy of Christine Porter, and we look forward to inviting participation in this groundbreaking editorial circle by members of the JAFSCD community.

Until then, JAFSCD wishes everyone a peaceful, kind, and productive 2026! 



Duncan Hilchey  
Publisher and editor-in-chief