



Handpicked: Stories from the Field

A production of the Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

Episode 2:

“What Gets Measured Gets Managed”: Hidden Food Metrics as Tools for Democracy

Featuring: Nevin Cohen

Glossary of Terms

Crowd Sourced Data

“Crowdsourced data collection is a participatory method of building a dataset with the help of a large group of people.”

https://dimewiki.worldbank.org/wiki/Crowd-sourced_Data

Food Gentrification

“Food gentrification” is a term used to describe how previously affordable and staple ingredients can suddenly become “cool,” costly, and ultimately out of reach for poorer communities that once depended on them.”

<https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/takeaway/segments/understanding-foodgentrifications-impact-hunger>

Food Metric

Metrics are the way we count or measure things—they are the data we collect to help us better understand and change our communities at different scales. They are important because they draw attention to specific issues and frame the food system in a particular way. They can be used instrumentally to help decision makers develop policies and interventions, help to accelerate programs and policies by drawing attention to a problem, or they can slow things down by suggesting that the system is okay as is (Nevin Cohen).

Hidden Food Metric

A metric that is relevant to the food system but hasn’t been used by food advocates or food policy makers because it is seen as relevant to another issue (Nevin Cohen).

Food Metrics 3.0

An emergence of more innovative ways to measure the food environment and that includes things like crowd sourced data. There’s a lot of crowd sourced data available that can tell us whether the food environment in our community is adequate or substandard (I.e. google maps) (Nevin Cohen).