

Propositions

attached to the thesis

Constructing and Contesting Food Sovereignty: Food Lines, Fault Lines and Seeds of Transformation in Venezuela

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PROPOSITIONS

1. THE COMMON STATE-CENTERED FOCUS IN ANALYSES OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY POLITICS IN VENEZUELA HAS OBSCURED THE KEY ROLES OF SOCIAL ACTORS “FROM BELOW”, AS WELL AS THE INTERACTIONS OF STATE, SOCIETY AND CAPITAL IN SHAPING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CONSTRUCTION. (THIS THESIS)
2. WHILE THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN THE FOOD SHORTAGES SEEN TODAY IN VENEZUELA HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT SCRUTINY AND DEBATE IN MEDIA AND IN ACADEMIC ANALYSES, THE ROLE OF PRIVATE CAPITAL HAS GONE UNDEREXPLORED. (THIS THESIS)
3. WHILE THE DOMINANT MAINSTREAM NARRATIVE AROUND STREET PROTESTS IN VENEZUELA IN 2017 LINKS THEM DIRECTLY TO THE FOOD LINES, IN AN IMAGE OF HUNGRY MASSES WERE TAKING TO THE STREETS, A CLOSER ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION INDICATES THAT THOSE COMPRISING THE FOOD LINES AND THOSE COMPRISING THE STREET PROTESTS WERE TWO DISTINCT GROUPS REPRESENTING DIFFERENT SECTORS OF SOCIETY WITH DIFFERENT POLITICAL INTERESTS. (THIS THESIS)
4. TAPPING INTO SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES PASSED DOWN OVER GENERATIONS HAS BEEN KEY TO THE SURVIVAL OF WORKING-CLASS URBAN COMMUNITIES IN THE FACE OF THE PRESENT FOOD SHORTAGES IN VENEZUELA. (THIS THESIS)
5. AMONG THE UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE FOOD SHORTAGES AT PRESENT IN VENEZUELA IS THAT THEY HAVE CATALYZED AN UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL OF GRASSROOTS ACTIVITY AROUND FOOD, SUCH AS RECOVERY OF TRADITIONAL SEEDS, CROPS AND COOKING TECHNIQUES; NEW URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES; AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AROUND FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTION. (THIS THESIS)
6. THE CASE OF VENEZUELA POINTS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF FURTHER RESEARCH INTO THE “WEAPONIZATION OF FOOD”, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, AS WELL AS BOTH THE PROMISES AND LIMITATIONS OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN RELATION TO SUCH TRENDS.
7. AN UNDERSTUDIED COMPONENT OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY EFFORTS IN VENEZUELA IS THE BANNING OF LARGE-SCALE TRAWLING OPERATIONS OFF THE VENEZUELAN COASTLINE AND THE SUBSEQUENT RESURGENCE OF COMMUNITY-BASED FISHERIES OVER THE PAST DECADE, AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH SUCH FISHERIES ARE CONTRIBUTING TO FOOD ACCESS IN THE FACE OF SHORTAGES OF INDUSTRIALIZED FOODS.
8. THE CASE OF VENEZUELA POINTS TO COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED FOOD RESERVES, AS PART OF AN INTEGRATED NATIONAL SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, AS AN AREA MERITING FURTHER ATTENTION BOTH IN SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AND IN POLICY DELIBERATIONS.
9. THE RECENT RE-EMERGENCE OF WIDESPREAD EMERGENCY FEEDING EFFORTS IN VENEZUELA PROVIDES FERTILE GROUND FOR STUDYING THE INTERSECTIONS AND FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY EFFORTS.
10. AS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY RESEARCH EMPHASIZES THAT SMALL-SCALE FOOD PROVIDERS AND FOOD CHAIN WORKERS COMPRISE THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD’S HUNGRY AT THE SAME TIME THAT THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCING MUCH OF THE WORLD’S FOOD, EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP FOR MEMBERS OF THESE POPULATIONS IN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY RESEARCH REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT POTENTIAL AREA OF GROWTH.
11. SCHOLAR ACTIVIST CIRCLES ARE OFTEN INFLECTED WITH, OR SITUATED IN, UNSPOKEN PATRIARCHAL HIERARCHIES, NORMS AND RELATIONS, WHICH CREATE A BARRIER FOR PRACTICING RELEVANT, EFFECTIVE AND ENGAGED RESEARCH.