

PROPOSITIONS

attached to the thesis

Histories of Othering, Practices of Solidarity, and Prospects for Emancipatory Convergence Among California's Food and Farming Movements in Times of Resurgent Rightwing Power

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1. To understand rightwing politics requires attention to rightwing forces themselves in dialectical interaction with the movements, theories, and protagonism of marginalized populations who have been Othered in the process of building and maintaining rightwing power. This includes those populations who compose agrarian and food movements in California. *This thesis.*
2. The colonial-capitalist state is a central element in the (re)production of Othering, co-constituting marginalization of many categories of people alongside hierarchies of economic class, race, gender, age, ethnicity, national origin, and more. *This thesis.*
3. Rightwing populism's authoritarianism operates on a continuum, linked to and stemming from authoritarian state power of coercion, enforced (legal) stratification, and suppression of political challenges — powers and tendencies created and reproduced as well by “liberal” and “progressive” political forces. *This thesis.*
4. Emancipatory politics of agrarian and food movements in California vary, based on historical lineages of struggle and relationships to state and capital. For those who have been Othered, emancipatory politics involves efforts at (self/cultural) valorization and (selective) assimilation, and of forming larger social-political “we's” with allies across society's many (enforced) divisions. *This thesis.*
5. Insights from anarchist theory and movements should be brought to bear in critical agrarian and development studies, as these have too often been ignored or belittled in favor of liberal and Marxist perspectives. *This thesis.*
6. Activism and scholarship *can* go together, but it is not an easy or comfortable match.
7. “Neoliberalism” as a concept and research paradigm only goes so far in explaining the political conditions and possibilities of the present.
8. The United States — if we are judging against the metrics of social equity, democratic functionality, and ecological sustainability — should be seen as an “undeveloped” country.
9. Academics should be aware of their personal position when “studying up” and “studying down”, knowing that one's background influences — even if it does not determine — one's politics, one's oversights, and one's answers to ethical quandaries.
10. All knowledge is the result of collective thought and action, yet a PhD process emphasizes the individual in ways that may deceive reader and author alike.
11. If you're going to try to change the world, make sure you've got some good stable sources of joy and commitment lying around!