

Grillmasters and Exploding Bean Cans:

Food Journal Explores Man's Place in the Kitchen

Whether they are firing up the grill or flipping pancakes on Sunday morning, men tend to take on distinctive, stereotyped tasks when it comes to cooking. A special issue of *Food and Foodways* (Volume 13, Number 1-2) explores men's appetites and aptitudes in the kitchen in order to shed a fascinating new light on gender roles.

From firehouse chili dinners to Boy Scout campfires to high-protein fitness supplements, the special issue, "**Food and Masculinities**," probes the narrowly constructed ways in which men enter and transform a realm traditionally reserved for women in Western culture.

"The control of food production and consumption is inextricably tied up with issues of power and position," say Alice Julier and Laura Lindenfeld, editors of this special issue. "Men's cooking is almost always symbolically constructed as 'special' for the reason that women are recruited for daily cooking with much greater frequency than men."

Articles in the special issues address such topics as:

- **Firehouse cooking**, where communal food preparation is jokingly referred to in sexual terms to "masculinize" a necessary task
- **Campfire culture** and the way that scouts' cooking traditions can support or subvert gender norms
- **Fitness magazines**, in which scientifically designed supplements and streamlined eating habits appeal to male notions of the body as a machine
- **Gold-rush gourmets**, the 19th century California gold-miners who punctuated a steady diet of beans with binges of oysters and champagne

Throughout "Food and Masculinities" the authors rethink the division between men and women's connection to food, examining cooking as passion versus cooking as necessary drudgery. The articles look beyond gender norms to communal situations in which men prepare food in a family-like way, exclusive of women.

“Backyard barbecues complete with ‘kiss the cook’ aprons are as masculine as mowing the lawn or scowling under the hood of a car in suburban Middle America,” says Jonathan Deutsch. “But between the extremes of men who cook, from professional chef to recreational ‘burgermeister,’ is another important group of men who feel a need to, and choose to, cook.”

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Food and Foodways is a refereed, interdisciplinary, and international journal devoted to publishing original scholarly articles on the history and culture of human nourishment. By reflecting on the role food plays in human relations, the journal explores the powerful but often subtle ways in which food shape our lives socially, economically, mentally, and morally. Articles in recent issues have addressed:

- The archaeology of Christmas cakes
- Culinary exoticism in France and Germany
- Food and gender in “Baghdad Café”
- The Soviet famine of the 1930s
- The ethnography of restaurants
- Fetal alcohol syndrome in early modern Europe

Food and Foodways encourages discussion across many disciplines and publishes work by anthropologists, biologists, economists, ethnobotanists, historians, literary critics, nutritionists, psychologists, sociologists, and others who use food as a lens of analysis.

To request a sample copy of *FOF* or to receive complete subscription information, contact the address below. You may purchase Single Issue 13 (1-2) **Food and Masculinities**, edited by Alice Julier and Laura Lindenfeld for just \$22 or visit the *FOF* web page to order online: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/07409710.asp>

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Food and Foodways
Explorations in the History and Culture of Human Nourishment

Volume 13, Numbers 1-2
Food and Masculinities

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Mapping Men onto the Menu: Masculinities and Food

* Alice Julier and Laura Lindenfeld

Original Papers

Feeding Hard Bodies: Food and Masculinities in Men's Fitness Magazines

* Fabio Parasecoli

The Overcooked and Underdone: Masculinities in Japanese Food Programming

* T.J.M. Holden

Boy Scouts and the Manly Art of Cooking

* Jay Mechling

"Please Pass the Chicken Tits": Rethinking Men and Cooking at an Urban Firehouse

* Jonathan Deutsch

Saving Milk Through Masculinity: Public Health Officers and Pure Milk, 1880-1930

* Daniel Block

Men, Meat, and Marriage: Models of Masculinity

* Jefferey Sobal

Research Notes

Cooking on Their Own: Cuisines of Manly Men

Richard Wilk and Persephone Hintlian

*"I Eat Because I'm Hungry, Because It's Good, and to Become Full": Everyday Eating
Voiced by Male Carpenters, Drivers, and Engineers in Contemporary Oslo*

Gun Roos and Margareta Wandel