

Cross-STs is a student-organized series of conversations, hosted by MIT's Program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS), about social and political dimensions of science and technology. Always free and open to the public. Dinner and snacks will be served!

Food, Farms, Factories

Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 5:30–7pm, E51-095



In this Cross-STs, we explore the industrialization of food production in the United States. Bringing together historical and ethnographic perspectives, our speakers will talk about their work on the past and the future of American agribusiness, where not only machines but also non-human species are subject to the industrial mode of production. What challenges might industrial farming of plants and animals pose to how we think about the ethics of consumption and multi-species coexistence on a climate-changing planet?

About Our Speakers:

UP NEXT

April 2, 5:30-7p

Computing from the South

Eden Medina (MIT)
Héctor Beltrán (MIT)

April 9, 5:30-7p

Waters, Oceans, Anthropocenes

Stefan Helmreich (MIT)
Sunil Amrith (Harvard)

Alex Blanchette is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Tufts University. His research concerns the politics of industrial labor and life in a post-industrial United States. His upcoming book, *Porkopolis: American Animality, Standardized Life, and the "Factory" Farm* (2020), is an ethnography of labor within large-scale meat corporations.

Deborah Fitzgerald is Professor of the History of Technology at MIT. Her research focuses on agriculture in twentieth-century America. Her latest book, *Every Farm a Factory: The Industrial Ideal in American Agriculture* (2003), discusses the transformation of agricultural practice in America from a pre-industrial to an industrial activity in the early twentieth century. She is currently working on a project about the industrialization of food during World War II.