



Environmental Science Graduate Program Student Seminar Series

Are We Planning Sustainable Food Systems?

● **Jane Karetny**

Smith 3150 | 10 - 18 - 19 | 2:00 - 3:00 pm



Abstract:

Food policy is no longer a stranger in the field of planning. Joining other long-standing planning disciplines like land use and zoning, food system planning is on the rise across the US. Food systems are a complex webs of activities involving the production, processing, transport, consumption, and recycling of food that are conceptualized as levers for improving health, social, economic, and environmental health outcomes. The place-based strategies that address food issues including hunger, obesity, inequality, and water quality are codified in local Food System Plans (FSP). In 2010, for the first time, national leaders in the nursing, nutrition, planning, and public health professions created a shared platform for systems-wide food policy change, identifying "sustainable" as one of seven main tenants of food system planning. However, FSPs do not evenly nor comprehensively address social, environmental, and economic outcomes that comprise sustainability. This research reviews sustainability literature from across the fields of planning, ecology, and economics to develop an evaluation framework, and then uses it to evaluate to the extent to which the three dimensions of sustainability are addressed in FSPs and whether these dimensions are in balance. The outcomes of this research include a comprehensive look into how all US FSPs plan for sustainability as well as the creation a Sustainable FS Planning Framework that can be used to guide FS policy development as more municipalities embark on developing FS Plans of their own.

