

Food sharing and new social relations in London

Brigida Marovelli
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
SHARECITY

marovelb@tcd.ie



Outline

- Introduction
- Food Sharing in London
- Methodology
- Case Studies
- Community Engagement' Strategies in Food Sharing Initiatives
- Conclusions



Liminal Spaces of Care

“spaces of care that potentially serve to articulate a newly emerging and not yet fully formed ethical and political response to welfare ‘in the meantime’ (p.2).”

Cloke, P., May, J., & Williams, A. (2016). The geographies of food banks in the meantime. *Progress in Human Geography*.



Methodology

Data Collection – January-April 2017

- Ethnography

Analysis

- NVivo extracting three main nodes: 'Community', 'Food Qualities' and 'Goals and Motivations' - participant observation notes, interviews' transcriptions and secondary data
- The extracts clustered in subthemes and analysed with qualitative content analysis methodology.



#LondonIsOpen



London – Case Studies

1. Garden and Kitchen by Global Generation
2. Be Enriched and Brixton's People Kitchen
3. Community Shop





**GLOBAL
GENERATION**

SKIP GARDEN & KITCHEN





BE ENRICHED





Community Shop

more than just food

entrance



Community Hub



more than just food

more than just food

find out how to become a member

Community Shop

Visit us at www.community-shop.co.uk

Creating a positive atmosphere through food sharing

positive

warm

non-

judgemental

open

safe

“the perfect antidote to our city urban lifestyles”

[secondary data]

“kids don’t ‘normally [...] want to leave the house”

[secondary data]

“that’s a big part it [...] everybody’s sitting together. It’s not you go and sit in your little corner and eat your meal. It’s about eating with other people and that community sort of engagement.”

[from interview]



Food sharing as universal communicative practice

a tool,
a language,
an end,
an easy way to
talk to one
another

“I always think of it as more opening up, like sharing a specific space. So for me it’s like sharing this kitchen with them. And not only that but also sharing my interest and my enthusiasm and my curiosity.”

[from interview]

“[...] just hand-in-hand with that and just as important for me is social justice. [...] Sort of actually involving communities and communities feeling part of other communities and coming together. And I think if we were then saying, okay, well, you know, you might eat meat at home but you can’t bring that here, then we’re basically saying no thank you, go away.

[from interview]



Creating spaces for new myths

“we need new myths that speak about who we are and the world we inhabit and help us work through the grief for what is happening around us, both to the natural world and to people.”
(p.XX)

“And this is where movements can be so powerful and disruptive, not just telling new stories, but in creating ‘congregational spaces’ where these stories can be incubated and lived out.” (p.12)

Evans, A. (2017). *The myth gap : what happens when evidence and arguments aren't enough?* New York: Transworlds



Thank you for your attention!

www.sharecity.ie
marovelb@tcd.ie

Brigida Marovelli
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
SHARECITY

