

The I-LanD Seminar Series

I-LanD Interuniversity Research Centre



Thursday, 2nd October 2025

From Homeland to Hostland: Ethnographic Explorations of Food, Migration and Hospitality

Microsoft Teams at 16:30-18:30 (CET time)

Meeting ID: 382 943 321 602 4 Passcode: 3Dk6dZ94

Jillian R. Cavanaugh

Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, CUNY

Cornelia Gerhardt

Saarland University

Petros Karatsareas

University of Westminster

Kathleen C. Riley

Rutgers University, New Jersey

in conversation with **Siria Guzzo**

University of Salerno

For further information, visit:

The I-LanD Seminar Series

<https://i-land-researchcentre.eu/>

or email: passesposito@unisa.it



Join the meeting

This panel explores the intersection of food and food-related practices, language, and social identity among migrant communities, focusing on how culinary practices act as a focal point for negotiating belonging in new cultural landscapes. Drawing on ethnographic case studies from various global contexts, the panel examines food not merely as a source of sustenance, but as a dynamic sociolinguistic resource. We posit that the preparation, sharing, and consumption of traditional foods serve as a powerful form of “culinary communication” articulating cultural heritage, social bonds, and resistance to assimilation (Guzzo, 2019).

The contributors in this panel delve into specific instances where foodways intersect with language use and social organization.

Jillian R. Cavanaugh's research focuses on heritage food production in northern Italy, investigating how the creation of values like authenticity and localness are produced through various labor modalities, including talk, and how such values can be tools of exclusion as much as inclusion (Cavanaugh, 2023). **Cornelia Gerhardt** is a senior lecturer in English linguistics at Saarland University, Germany. Her research focuses on language in use, especially in mediated contexts and media discourse. In culinary linguistics, she has studied vegan food blogs and ‘exgredients’ such as gluten-free ones (Gerhardt & Frobenius, 2025). **Petros Karatsareas** (University of Westminster) explores how migrants use food talk to construct the authenticity of emblematic ‘ethnic’ food as something that, in contexts of diaspora and hospitality, can be molded and reshaped without losing its integral substance (Charalambidou, Flora, Karatsareas & Lytra, 2025). **Kathleen C. Riley** is Assistant Research Professor of Linguistic and Cultural Anthropology at Rutgers University. Her work examines multilingualism, language ideologies, and food-language practices across sites from French Polynesia to New York City. She has co-authored *Food and Language*, co-edited special issues on food and globalization, and published widely in leading journals and reference works (Riley and Paugh, 2018).

By foregrounding food as an ethnographic lens, this panel reveals the strategies migrants use to maintain continuity, build community, and articulate identity. It contributes to a deeper understanding of the sociolinguistic dimensions of migration, showing how everyday practices like eating carry profound social meaning.



References

The I-LanD Research Centre is delighted to invite you to the seminar of “*The I-LanD Seminar Series – 4th Edition*”. Innovative in nature, the I-LanD Seminar Series showcases convenors debating issues in their field(s) of expertise. The seminars aim to encourage speakers to reveal insights, introduce adopted methodologies, highlight pitfalls, and generally expand knowledge in a given area. Each co-host will briefly present their contribution to the theme of the seminar. At the end of each round, fellow convenors and audience members will ask questions on the topics presented, in order to foster an enriching and productive discussion.

The seminar *From Homeland to Hostland: Ethnographic Explorations of Food, Migration and Hospitality*, scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 2025, 16:30–18:30 (CET), will feature contributions from Jillian R. Cavanaugh (Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center, CUNY), Cornelia Gerhardt (Saarland University), Petros Karatsareas (University of Westminster), and Kathleen C. Riley (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey) in conversation with Siria Guzzo (Università degli Studi di Salerno).

We look forward to welcoming you to this inspiring discussion.