



In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy
Adenike Opejin

will defend her prospectus

**Consumers' Food Waste in
the City of Phoenix: Drivers, Solution
Strategies and Barriers**

Friday, July 17, 2020

10:00 am

[Zoom Meeting ID](#): 963 7815 0372

Faculty, students, and the public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Rimjhim Aggarwal (Co-chair)

Dr. Dave White (Co-chair)

Dr. Margaret Garcia (Member)

Dr. Kathleen Merrigan (Member)

Abstract

Food waste is a global challenge that affects the sustainability of food systems. About one-third of food produced globally is lost or wasted along the food supply chain; yet, there are more than 820 million hungry people in the world. Food waste occurs at different points in the food supply chain—production, processing, distribution and consumption. In developed countries, food waste at the consumption stage has been identified as a major contributor to the overall food waste problem. It is estimated that about 60% of all US post-harvest food waste occurs at the consumption stage. Although many studies have focused on consumer's food waste behavior in the United States, the systemic drivers of this behavior are yet to be fully explored. Causal factors related to waste at the consumer level are often attributed to personal factors, with little attention to the role that the environment in which people live plays. However, there is consensus in the literature of food waste at the consumer stage about the absolute necessity to understand the root causes of food waste. Using both qualitative and quantitative methods I propose to: (1) explore the systemic drivers of consumer food waste in the city of Phoenix; (2) use socio-ecological model to understand the determinants of consumers' food waste behavior; and (3) evaluate city level solutions that can be adopted through stakeholder engagement.