



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy
Sara El-Sayed

Will defend her prospectus

**Regenerative Food System that Honors
Small-scale Producers' Good Food**

**Friday, January 24th, 2020
12:00pm**

**The Biomimicry Center,
College of Design South, CDS-126**

Faculty, students, and the public are invited.
Appetizers will be served

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Scott Cloutier, Chair
Dr. Joni Adamson, Member
Dr. Dayna Baumeister, Member
Dr. Christy Spackman, Member

Abstract

Good food, or food that is good for people and planet, demands a different worldview and approach than the current industrial food system. As an ecofeminist researcher that values reciprocity, justice, and a holistic approach, I aim to investigate varying good food perspectives by integrating scientific evidence and practical experience. Specifically, I will explore the opportunities climatic change and desertification have created for innovative and solutions-oriented small-scale food systems techniques in arid regions to define, identify, communicate, and pollinate good food and its related practices. A significant gap exists between current small-scale good food practices and the means by which we pollinate such practices into conventional food systems. I suggest that combining social science and arts-based methodologies will allow us to more deeply support a food system that produces good food and ultimately their integration into conventional means of production. This dissertation will result in three overall deliverables, bound by an introduction and conclusion: (1) a theoretical research framework paper, grounded in biomimicry, traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), and regenerative agriculture and development, defining and identifying good food and the systems that produce it, (2) a research paper that assesses food governance and socio-cultural aspects of small-scale good food productions in arid regions, and the potential infrastructures needed to integrate their best practices into conventional food systems; and (3) a series of short documentaries of food production practices in arid regions of the southwest United States, to be presented as part of pollinating workshop in Egypt, accompanied by an autoethnographic exploration of the process. The combined efforts should result in an in-depth understanding of good food outcomes and how they can better fit our current food system, whilst creating tools for dissemination to a larger audience.