Introduction to POROI 11.1

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Front and center in issue 11.1 of POROI: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Rhetorical Analysis and Invention is a Special Symposium on the Rhetoric of Food, guest edited by Adrienne Lamberti, University of Northern Iowa. The emphasis in these contributions on a topic of growing interest to rhetoric scholars falls on the experience of food production and consumption and the subtlety of food’s meaning to individuals and groups. The themes of the papers are set forth in the first essay, Professor Lamberti’s “The Rhetoric of Food: Precedent Food Texts as Inventio.”

In “Finding Ourselves in Our Food,” Max Despain, U.S. Air Force Academy, explores “M.F.K. Fisher’s The Art of Eating for the 21st Century.” In “To Meat or Not To Meat,” Beth Jorgensen, Saginaw Valley State, gives us “An Analysis of On-line Vegetarian Persuasive Rhetoric.” Victoria Bryan, Cleveland State Community College, reveals the highly gendered nature of the experience of food by a close reading of several of Eudora Welty’s stories. Her essay is entitled “Out of Her Safety into His Hunger and Weakness’: Masculine Communities and Feminine Space in Eudora Welty’s ‘A Wide Net’ and ‘Flowers for Marjorie.’” Eileen Schell, Syracuse University, uses Kenneth’s Burke’s four master tropes to examine “Racialized Rhetorics of Food Politics: Black Farmers, the Case of Shirley Sherrod, and Struggle for Land Equity and Access.”

POROI’s editors are grateful to Dr. Lamberti for commissioning and editing this insightful set of essays and to the authors for submitting them to this Symposium.

POROI 11.1 also includes two studies of how the digital revolution is affecting scholarship and scientific inquiry and ways of thinking about them. Chris Ingraham, University of Colorado Boulder, compares the recent rise of Digital Humanities with Rhetoric of Inquiry in ways that illuminate both in “Theory in a Transdisciplinary Mode: The Rhetoric of Inquiry and Digital Humanities.” In “Harnessing Agency for Efficacy: ‘Foldit’ and Citizen Science,” Ashley Rose Kelly, University of Waterloo, and
Kate Maddalena, University of North Carolina-Wilmington, show how the digital revolution is affecting scientific research in democratic ways that disrupt the received hierarchy of authorship and citational practice. They do so by studying the contribution of an on-line community of gamers to solving the “protein-folding problem,” a recalcitrant problem that has long troubled the edge of biochemistry and biology.

The issue also includes our annual summaries of panel discussions at the 2014 Preconference of the Association for Rhetoric of Science and Technology (ARST). The topic of the Preconference was the Rhetoric of Risk. An impressive total of fourteen panelists contributed to these summaries. Their contributions are edited and introduced by John Lynch, who organized the day-long series of panels. Consult his “Introduction to Reports from the ARST Preconference ‘Articulating Risk’” for a discussion of the topics and the names and affiliations of the contributors.

POROI heartily welcomes your submissions!