

SECTION TWO: to be completed by note taker during discussion

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**Article/Essay Title:** *The Sexual Politics of Meat (Chapter 1)*

**Author:** Carol J. Adams

**Readability:** Easy

**Thesis:** Norms surrounding meat distribution and consumption trace class, gender, and race hierarchies.

**Key Definitions:**

**Brief Summary:**

Punchy, provocative, quick and easy read with no real technical terms or jargon. Adams argues that meat-eating is a gendered, raced, and classist activity, and gives an analysis of Western meat eating practices throughout some of history, while in some places comparing these to non-Western and non-technological cultures in order to show how meat eating is associated with men and masculinity.

Adams includes a brief interlude where she mentions that meat eating also conforms with racial hierarchies. However, her analysis is quick and rough.

**Possible Applications:**

Courses:

- Introduction to Ethics
- Philosophy of Feminism
- Philosophy of Food
- Environmental Ethics
- Applied Ethics
- Bioethics

How to use the text:

- The text complicates and adds nuance to arguments in favor of vegetarianism
- The text helps explain why converting to vegetarianism can be difficult and has a lot of social meaning and significance
- The text helps highlight the complicated relationship between food we consume and our identities
- Text helps expose some of the ways that patriarchy and sexism can effect people in their daily lives

**Complementary Texts/Resources:**

- Karen Warren and Barbara Wells-Howe, *Ecological Feminism* (Routledge, 1994).
- Susan Bordo, *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body* (University of California Press, 2004).
- Elizabeth Anderson, “Animal Rights and the Values of Nonhuman Life,” in *Animal Rights: Current Debates and New Directions*, ed. Cass R. Sunstein and Martha Craven Nussbaum (Oxford University Press, 2004), 277.
- Tom Regan, *The Case for Animal Rights*. (UNIV OF CALIF PR, 1983).
- Lori Gruen, *Entangled Empathy: An Alternative Ethic for Our Relationships with Animals* (Lantern Books, 2015).
- Chloë Taylor, “Foucault and the Ethics of Eating,” *Foucault Studies* 0, no. 9 (September 1, 2010): 71–88.
- World food Programme: Focus on Women [<https://www.wfp.org/our-work/preventing-hunger/focus-women/overview>]

**Possible Class Activities:**

- Before students do the reading, give them a picture of a meal or a food and ask them to imagine in detail who the food is for. “Whose lunch is this?” Return to their responses on the day you discuss the reading.
- Have a discussion about how food is related to our various identities
- Think about other ways that food (or the control of food) is implicated in maintaining unjust social systems.
- Tell students to tell their friends and family they are considering vegetarianism (or considering eating meat if they are already vegetarian). Ask them what reactions they get. Do these support the argument made in the piece? Challenge it?