

Workshop Report

From Raw Manuscripts to Well-done Articles: A Workshop towards Publishing in Food Studies

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One of the main challenges for graduate students and early-career researchers lies in transforming their research into publishable material. Recognizing this, the workshop entitled “From Raw Manuscripts to Well-done Articles: A Workshop towards Publishing in Food Studies” was envisioned to offer a collaborative space where manuscripts based on previous and/or ongoing projects in Food Studies can be discussed and refined through a real-time peer-review session involving established scholars, fellow presenters, and the attending public audience. Ultimately, the workshop aimed to foster both publication skills and the strengthening of networks among emerging and veteran Food Studies scholars.

This workshop was held at Room 301, Building 10, Sophia University on January 15, 2026, from 14:00 - 18:05. This was a face-to-face activity, and the second event for the GSGS Symposium and Workshop Series 2025 – 2026 organized by graduate students and junior scholars. Miguel Niccolo Veneracion Rallonza served as the event’s chairperson.

The workshop centered on four presenters, all of whom were PhD students at different stages of the research. From the Graduate Program in Global Studies of Sophia University, were Ziao Li speaking on a reexamination of authenticity in Shanghai, Cloe Pipa-Despres speaking on the location of Japanese tea within the French culinary context, and Maria Alejandra Dorado Vinay speaking on the historical development of Japanese restaurants in Mexico City. Rounding off the presenters was Christian Ezekiel Mananis Fajardo a PhD student at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of International Christian University speaking on cooking as a communicative space for Filipino migrant students in Japan. Preparation for the workshop began well before the event date, as each presenter was required to submit a full manuscript for the discussants to read and comment on. To make

the exercise more realistic, presenters also had to select the academic journal in which they are interested in publishing.

The workshop organizers invited two veteran academics in the field of Food Studies to serve as the main reviewers and discussants for the activity. The first was Professor David Wank Professor Emeritus and former dean of the Graduate School of Global Studies, Sophia University. The second was Professor Greg de St. Maurice, Associate Professor, Faculty of Business and Commerce, Keio University. The manuscripts were then circulated to them as well as other presenters, the event supervisor, and the workshop organizers so that they could be read and commented on before the day of the event.

The event began with a brief overview of the workshop rationale. This was followed by the opening remarks of Professor Sven Saaler current dean of the Graduate School of Global Studies. He gave a summary of the GSGS workshop grant as an extension of the graduate school's thrust to train and educate the next generation of scholars. As this workshop focused on publication of research work, he also encouraged presenters to take advantage of the activity and suggested that AGLOS – the online journal of the graduate school – may be one possible place to submit their works.

Nico then proceeded to explain the general flow of the workshop. Each presenter was given 15 minutes to summarize and highlight key findings and insights of their research. After each presentation, around 20 minutes was allotted for a discussion lead by the two discussants. An additional 10 minutes was given for further comments and questions from those in attendance; pamphlets containing abstracts for each presentation were provided to the public audience to encourage their participation.

The first presenter was Ziao Li with his paper his paper entitled “Constructing Existential Authenticity through Dining Experience: Re-examining Restaurant Authenticity in Shanghai”. He was followed by Cloe Pipa-Despres and her paper entitled “How is Tea Shaping Social Dynamics in France?”. A short coffee break was held after the second presenter. Returning from the break, Christian Ezekiel Mananis Fajardo presented his paper entitled “Cooking Arroz Caldo with the Migrant Scholars: Storytelling, Vlogging, and

Belonging among Filipino Graduate Students in Japan”. Wrapping the presentations up was Maria Alejandra Dorado Vinay and her paper entitled “Soy Sauce with Lime Juice and Chiles Toreados: A History of Japanese Restaurants in Mexico City”.

The fact that the manuscripts represented were at different stages of research proved highly productive, as it allowed us to see the distinct strengths and areas for improvement in each paper. It is impossible to fully capture the quality of the discussants’ comments, so only a few examples are mentioned here. In the case of Ziao Li’s presentation, the theoretical framework was highlighted as a key strength, while discussants emphasized the need to strengthen the empirical work and clarify the narration of each case, particularly to distinguish the author’s voice from that of the interviewees. For Cloe Pipa-Després, the relevance of the case study and its strong integration with Bourdieusian scholarship were praised. At the same time, it was suggested that the article be more clearly structured, reducing the weight of the historical narrative in order to strengthen the presentation of the fieldwork. In Christian Ezekiel Mananis Fajardo’s case, the originality of the method—particularly within the field of food studies—was positively noted. However, it was recommended that the manuscript more clearly articulate the disciplinary objective of the research. Finally, in Maria Alejandra Dorado Vinay’s presentation, the empirical work was recognized as a major strength, but it was suggested that the research objective be more explicitly defined and that the theoretical framework be more closely linked to the empirical analysis.

To close the event, Professor James Farrer reflected on the importance of exercises like this one for helping students understand the nature of academic work. He emphasized that scholarship is a collective endeavor that depends on critique, revision, and sustained engagement with the comments of others. He shared that, looking back, he wishes he had persisted more with his master’s thesis, rather than being discouraged by critical feedback. His point was not about regret, but about recognizing that academia is, in many ways, a kind of intellectual combat that requires openness to criticism, and the willingness to keep refining one’s work through dialogue and debate.

To formally conclude the event, Nico presented certificates to all participants and discussants in recognition of their contributions. A group photo was taken to commemorate the occasion. The workshop then continued informally over dinner, where conversations extended beyond the presentations and participants had the opportunity to further discuss their projects, exchange ideas, and strengthen collegial connections in a more relaxed setting.