

Script for podcast

(Music begins to open podcast)

Opening:

(Music begins to lead to introduction)

Intro to podcast: Welcome. I'm Meredith E. Abarca, your hostess for today's episode. El Paso Food Voices explores the El Paso, Texas food landscape by gathering food-based stories from our residents. This project offers a taste of a living history that speaks of ethnic and racial cross-cultural connections. If we are what we eat, we're committed to highlight the food-based culture and history of this city. In this spirit, let's begin our conversation with two of my former students. We'll focus on their introduction to food as an academic field of study within the humanities, and what impact it has had in their personal lives, how they see food within El Paso's landscape, and what opportunities it has opened for them as scholars in the liberal arts. Let's begin our conversation with our guests, Dr. Consuelo Salas and Ph.D. student Josh Lopez.

(Music begins to lead to first set of topics)

Topic #1: Let's take turns: can we begin with each of you telling us a bit about who you are, your family, and if you're from El Paso, Texas?

Consuelo:

Josh:

Topic #2: A number of universities, in the United States, Europe, and Latin America offer academic degrees in what is now known as Food Studies. These degrees examine food's material and symbolic implications; they examine how food is integral to a community's social, historical, cultural, political, and environmental daily life. While we don't have such a degree here at the University of Texas at El Paso, or UTEP as we call it, you both were introduced to this area of research while studying here and taking classes with me. Can you both tell us about

your introduction to this area of study and what about it you found that “hooked” you to make Food Studies a central focus of your academic studies?

Consuelo:

Josh:

Topic #3: What does Food Studies mean to each of you?

Consuelo:

Josh:

Topic #4: How has your academic research on food studies impacted your own relationship to food? In terms of what and how you consume food? How you think about food? How are your memories of significant familial episodes now remembered?

Consuelo:

Josh:

Topic #5: As two people born and raised in El Paso, Texas, how does the scholarly exploration of food impact your views, understanding, appreciation, challenges, etc. of what El Paso’s food landscape offers (or does not) its residents?

Consuelo:

Josh:

Topic #5: Both of you have graduated from UTEP and moved on to other universities, where Consuelo is Assistant Professor of Rhetoric Studies at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte and Josh a Ph.D. History student at University of North Texas. In what areas of food studies are you concentrating in your research and why?

Consuelo:

Josh:

Topic #6: What other topics about your personal trajectory into the area food studies would you like to cover?

We want to once again thank our guests Dr. Consuelo Salas and Ph.D. student Josh Lopez for sharing their personal experience in the academic field of Food Studies, an-interdisciplinary based knowledge that allows us to see the rich and complex role food plays in very community.

(Music begins leading to final section of podcast)

El Paso Food Voices was created by Meredith E. Abarca, professor of Food Studies and Literature at the University of Texas at El Paso; the podcast was produced by Adrian Meza from UTEP's Creative Studios, and the music composed by Jake Jacobs. To learn more about how food practices, memories, and stories shape a city's history, culture and its character, please visit us at El Paso Food Voices.

(Ending with music)