

How the Pizza came to Norway: The Global Travelling of an Ethnic Cuisine

The rapid Italianization of our daily lives is probably one of the few phenomena of globalization that has been widely cherished in Western societies. Unlike American fast food, which is usually seen to contribute to the so-called “McDonaldization” of the world and thus to cultural homogenization under American auspices, Italian food seems to signify cultural enrichment, if not a necessary mission to civilize the world. How exactly this process of cross-cultural fertilization played out in various countries around the world is still rather unknown. Taking the case of Norway, and specifically Oslo, Master’s students will have a chance to delve deeply into transnational and global history, yet at the same time remain grounded in their own national experience. Or as my own supervisor used to say: Think global, research local!

Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- The frozen pizza: A ‘national’ product or a ‘foreign’ import?
- Italian restaurants in Oslo: places of living the ‘dolce vita’?

Please note: Afficionados of Mexican food may also work on the meaning of tacos for Norwegian society or other related items.