What roles does food Sovereignty play in exposing the consequences of globalization, and in conveying solutions to the consequences of globalization pertaining to food access in West Africa and U.S. Midwest?

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Abstract

The social problem being studied is food access in the U.S. Midwest in comparison to food access in Western Africa. In the Midwest U.S., there is a problem of food deserts. There are primarily urban areas where there is a lack of physical access to healthy foods because there is a lack of stores or vendors that sell it. An investigation exposed whether or not the same problem exists in Western Africa. The research question is the following: What role does food sovereignty play in exposing the consequences of globalization, and in conveying solutions to the consequences of globalization in West Africa and U.S. Midwest? Through the assumptions and principles of critical social theory, data were gathered through observations of the food distributions in street markets, grocery stores, and conducted ethnographic interviews. The results of these data have shown that the problem in Western Africa is not one of physical food access, but of a monetary access. Also, in the United States, the term food desert has been reported to be an insufficient term in that transportation is not incorporated into the definition. Conclusions indicate that there is more research required on policy changes which tackle the root causes of food access issues in the United States as well as in Western Africa, which stem from a globalized market.
The Consequences of Globalization Pertaining to Food Sovereignty in West Africa and U.S. Midwest

The Consequences of Globalization Pertaining to Food Sovereignty

in West Africa and U.S. Midwest

Nia Evans

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Acknowledgments

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Nia Evans
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Literature Review

A literature review of the current understanding of food sovereignty, globalization, and the consequences that globalization has on food sovereignty was conducted. Before discussing the background of food sovereignty issues and solutions as well as globalization, key concepts used throughout the thesis were defined. Those terms are globalization and food sovereignty.

“Globalization refers to the expansion and intensification of social relations and consciousness across world-time and world-space” (Steger, 2013, p. 74). Steger (2013) analyzes globalization in four different domains, and categorizes food as both a cultural and ecological focus. According to Steger (2013), overconsumption of material goods and natural resources in the global north is a major role in the ecological demise of the world, which has led to food shortages around the world directly influenced by “unequal access to resources across developed and developing countries” (p. 190). Steger (2013) states that this overconsumption comes from a spreading of western cultural principles including consumeristic values and the belief of Western Modernity that the environment is a resource to take from and a tool to be used (p. 187).

“Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agricultural systems” (Alonso-Fradejas, Borras, Holmes, Holt-Gimenez, Robbins, 2015, p. 432). The people which own the land should be able to create the laws that govern the food of which is grown from the land. This also includes people being able to do what they want with the food that they produce. Infringement of these principles created the need to define food sovereignty. “The notion of food sovereignty began to appear in 1996, during the World Food Summit held in Rome” (Menezes, 2001, p. 30), during which conversations were held that discussed the Free Trade Agreement, and the examples of infringement it created on food
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sovereignty in Mexico. Menezes (2001) reported that imports of primary crops, such as corn, increased dramatically due to the policies of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). This increase discouraged the domestic production of these goods. Changes were demanded by the Mexican government to ensure that it would be able to continue to make its own decisions when it came to food production and trading that would benefit its country first.

A review of a commonly understood and researched consequence, the food desert in the U.S., as well as food insecurity issues of Western Africa, were also conducted. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2015), Senegal has been shown to be a country that has not been able to reach or show progress towards reaching the first Millennium Development Goal (MGD 1), which focuses on, along with two other objectives, decreasing hunger and malnourishment worldwide from 1990 to 2015 as a 25-year target. The FOA (2015) concluded that countries that were not able to further develop with the improvement of hunger rates had inadequate social protection implemented in its policies. As a matter of fact, Senegal has approximately 3.7 million people who are undernourished from 2014 to 2016, which is a 93.1% increase from their 1.9 million people in 1990 to 1992 when the development goals were first implemented (FAO, 2015). A trend that has been noticed in parallel with the inability of Senegal to reach the MGD 1 has been an increase in imports into Senegal from other countries. A steady increase of imports in the same 25-year time-period, without a counter balance in growth in exports to help compensate for the influx of imports, has created an increase in the debt of the agricultural sector from US$ 230 million in 1990 to US$ 1.2 billion in 2012 (Bini, 2016). Senegal was also noted to be one of the countries that was most impacted by the food crisis of 2007-2008 (Bini, 2016). The Senegalese government reacted to this crisis by
implementing agricultural laws that focused on decreasing the importation of staple crops that could be sustainably grown from the land of the country (Bini, 2016).

In the Midwest U.S., similar food access issues exist as well. In the United States, the term food desert commonly is used when identifying areas of poor access to fresh and healthy foods. According Mari Gallagher (2007), it was found that over half the city of Detroit’s population lives in an area that is considered to have an imbalance in the availability of fresh and healthy foods. To determine if a resident of Detroit resided within a food desert area, Gallagher’s team measured the distance from residential blocks in Detroit and the surrounding metropolitan area to the closest grocery store, fast food restaurant, and other food distribution locations, while also considering the locations of USDA food stamp retailers; and conducted an analysis of the distribution of these food proprietors. These data were based on the 2000 census. To quantify their results, they developed a scoring system that allowed them to analyze trends between poor food choices and diet related health disparities. They went on to find that the problem in this region is not in the availability to establishments that sell food, but that the types of foods that are being sold are not healthy. There are many convenience type foods available from places including liquor stores, gas stations, and fast food restaurants, but no mainstream grocery stores such as Aldi, Krogers, or Whole Foods. These findings are significant because these food imbalances and creation of food deserts arise in other areas of the U.S. Midwest as well, not just the Detroit area.

The Heartland neighborhood of Grand Rapids downtown area also experiences the food insecurities of food deserts. Having 70% of its residents living in food insecure conditions, it is common for the only place that residents have to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables are convenience stores and gas stations (Sisson, 2016). In addition, approximately 50% of the
households of the area do not have their own personal measure of transportation to increase access to healthier food options.

There have been attempts to come up with solutions to these food access issues, but many of these solutions have not confronted the root causes of food sovereignty concerns. The Heartside Gleaning Initiative (HGI), that takes place in Heartside, a downtown neighborhood of Grand Rapids, Michigan, has attempted to combat the issues of food access by “gleaning produce from farmers’ markets and redistributing it in Heartside and surrounding neighborhoods” (Sisson, 2016, p. 338). The initiative saw a large success in its first year with involvement of 40 willing farmers contributing over 17,000 pounds of produce including over 35 varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables to the residents of the area. A door to door distribution system was established to be sure that low income residents would be provided the food directly, without inconveniencing them with traveling to obtain the produce. One area of limitation that was identified in this study was that an assessment was not completed that measured the actual change in food security status of the residents that participated. In effect, there was no way to determine if the amount of food that was provided was enough for the communities that were receiving the food.

A popular modality used to decrease food access issues is the establishment of community gardens in food desert areas. The common idea is that the people of the area would work the land and take home the food that they harvest as a form of income. However, this has confronted with its own limitations as well. David Lewellen is the editor of Vision, the newsletter of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, and a writer who has contributed work to Health Progress. He did an interview that reported on the work of community garden leaders in the U.S. He interviewed Kim Young, the executive director of Fondy Farmers Market
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in Milwaukee, who gave clarity to the limitations that community gardens endure. Young reported on the idea that for some, working the land has a negative connotation. Lewellen (2016) summed up Young’s words by stating “African-Americans coming north during the Great Migration were escaping such things as cultural memories of slavery and post-Civil War sharecropping. Buying food from a store was a sign of success” (p. 32). Therefore, if the individuals of low income areas are African American, and this type of mentality is still persistent within the community, the presence of a community garden would lack in the necessary manpower to make an impact of food access for that community.

Another commonly researched modality to decrease food access issues is the use and distribution of monetary aide in the form of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) ran by the USDA. According to Andrews, Bhatta, and Ploeg (2013, p. 151) “the SNAP provides monthly benefits to low income households that can be redeemed for groceries at authorized food retailers”. The food retailers include convenience stores as well as grocery stores and farmers’ markets. Andrews et al. (2013) noted an increase of approximately $80 per household at the beginning of April 2009 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and reported on how this increase helped further the aide that the participants received. The results of the data concluded that this increase generally enhanced food purchasing from superstores (e.g., Walmart, Target, Meijer ect.) by SNAP participants. The article goes on to say that there was also an increase in food purchasing from other types of stores. Andrews et al. (2013) stated that “this increase in benefits may make it feasible for households who face access barriers to travel farther to stores (with presumably lower food prices), because the increase in benefits indirectly acts to offset travel costs” (p. 151), specifically measuring the cost of travel by the price of gasoline. There is a gap in the data due to a lack of consideration of people who have
to obtain food without the use of a personal vehicle, including those who may have to spend large amounts of time trying to navigate bus routes to obtain food. Gallagher (2007) also makes mention that most of the food stores that qualify to accept food stamps were the convenience stores, gas stations, liquor stores, and other “fringe food” options (p.4), not allowing significant increase in access of a healthy food variety.

In addition, research has been completed on the budget cuts to SNAP in 2014 due to the ARRA funding evaporating near the end of 2013. According to Dean and Rosenbaum (2013) “The 2009 Recovery Act’s temporary boost to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits is scheduled to end on November 1, 2013, resulting in a benefit cut for nearly every SNAP household. For families of three, the cut will be $29 a month — a total of $319 for November 2013 through September 2014, the remaining months of fiscal year 2014.” (p.1) This is projected to be equal to an average of less than $1.40 per person per meal with a summation of an estimated $5 billion in total cuts nationally in fiscal year 2014 (Dean & Rosenbaum, 2013). Further current limitations of the SNAP include impractical benefit levels which do not consider all issues when it comes to food access. In congruency with a study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and National Research Council (NRC) (2013), the current SNAP benefit distribution does not adequately consider time for food preparation, discrepancies between food prices based on where participants live, proportion of income spent on food purchasing expectations, and transportation limitations for healthy food access.

In Western Africa, there have been efforts to combat the serious food insecurity issues as well, facing changes in demand from the perspectives of types of food as well as quantities of food. Staatz and Hollinger (2016) reported on the changes in demand within Sahelian countries. They report that due to “urbanization, migration, and broader exposure to electronic media have
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led to a broadening of food habits, ranging from greater consumption of processed cassava products in the Sahelian countries to the spread of Western-style fast food in some of the larger urban areas” (2016, p.8). An article by Krupnik et al. (2012) reports on an experiment completed to increase and improve the crop production to meet farmers’ needs. Three different farming techniques were tested while focusing on decreasing labor and herbicide use, which in turn, decreased cost. The findings concluded that “the advantages of Farmer Adapted Program (FAP) were clear, as this system demonstrated consistently high yields, had the highest profit probabilities and reduced economic risk for all seasons and sites studied.” (p. 111) However, the FAO (2015) reported that the Senegalese government was still unable to achieve its goal rice self-sufficiency by producing 1 million tons of rice starting in 2008 and ending in 2012, and has had to extend its goal until 2017. Furthermore, the FAO states that the rice production that was from 2008 to 2013 was 423,482, an increase of 73,482 from the 350,000 tons produced in 2008.

The FOA (2017) has reported that the harvest from 2016 has been able to reduce the pricing of maize and millet recently, but still also reported an overall higher average in the month of February of 2017 when compared to 2016. It also reported that the price of rice has remained stable. Overall, the FOA concluded “generally, domestic production covers about half of the country’s cereal utilization requirements. Therefore, Senegal continues to rely heavily on rice imports from the international market to meet its food requirements” (FOA, 2017, p.1). This information summarizes inherent limitations because it does not address the food access issues of the people. Only a moderate increase in food availability has been established, and if the food stays relatively at the same price, the people of Senegal still may not be able to afford the food once it is produced and food insecurity will not be decreased.
Bini (2016) reported on the several strategies that the Senegalese government attempted to establish around 2004. The attempt was aimed at reducing imports on stable crops that were already grown in Senegal such as poultry, onions, and potatoes. Another strategy launched in 2008 was called the Grand Offensive pour la Nourriture et l’Abondance (GOANA), which focused efforts to improve crop yield. According to Bini (2016) “the impact of these strategies is not yet visible and the proportion of undernourished people stagnated in the period 1990–2015, while the absolute number doubled from 1.9 to 3.7 million” (p. 6).

The following covers the research found that addresses the direct consequences of globalization on food sovereignty. Menezes (2001) reported on the parallel development of globalization and debt within developing countries, along with structural adjustment mechanisms that were put in place by the World Bank and the IMF in the 1980s. Stated by SAPRIN (2004), “One factor, more than any other, has crippled national economies, increased power and inequality and made millions of people hungry. It is a set of policies called structural adjustment that has been forced on developing countries for more than 20 years by the World Bank, the IMF and western aid agencies” (p. i). A report done by the Oakland Institute (2014) showed that there are regulatory procedures put in place by the World bank to monopolize the farming industry through the selling and distribution of infertile seeds and harmful chemical fertilizers within West African countries. When policies like these are put in place, it destroys the smaller farms in the countries, which takes away jobs and continues the cycle of impoverishment of a country (Black, 2001). When a country is impoverished, it trickles down to its citizens, making it difficult for them to have the means to survive. An example of this difficulty can be found with the battle between the Ghanaian government trying to help its people, and the IMF and World Bank looking to make a profit. In the *Damage Done: Aid, Death, and Dogma* by the Christian
Aid (2005), reports of record high imports of chicken meat into Ghana was starting to take a toll on the country’s finances. “By 2003, imports of chicken into Ghana had risen to 36,000 tons per year and were costing the country more than US$21 million in foreign exchange. Ten years earlier, just 3,497 tons of chicken meat were being imported per year. Imported chicken meat typically sells at a price one-third cheaper than Ghanaian chicken” (p.32). The Ghanaian government attempted to raise tariffs on imported chicken meat to help with this problem as well as help the farmers make more of a profit off their labor, but the implementation of these tariffs directly contrasted with the policies of a contract the IMF forced them to sign to get funding from them. “Its poverty reduction and growth facility (PRGF) agreement of 2000, on which US $35.1 million of IMF funding hinged, said: ‘The authorities [the government] will avoid the use of import surcharges for protecting local industries and are committed to the early elimination of all surcharges. The average tariff rate will be reduced while aiming at harmonizing regional practices and avoiding distortions’” (Christian Aide, 2005, p. 34). These types of restrictions, that influenced the way laws were constructed, were considered unconstitutional by the law makers of Ghana.

After reading the research, food sovereignty has been defined and food insecurities that can be caused by the globalized market were identified. Research also has been published on first order changes, or ground level solutions to solve the immediate impact of food access, but there is a lack of research on second order changes, which are policy changes that should be implemented to initiate true change and to prevent food insecurity issues from persisting. To address these gaps, my research question is the following: What role does food sovereignty play in exposing the consequences of globalization, and in conveying solutions to the consequences of globalization pertaining to food access in West Africa and U.S. Midwest?
Methodology

The next section will discuss the methodology used to investigate the research question. This includes the social theory which guided the data collection, a description of the participants of the interviews, the observational data collection, and the way in which the data was analyzed.

Social Theory

The social theory which guided the methodology for this research project was critical social theory. Critical Social Theory “facilitates a holistic understanding of contexts and increases conscious awareness of the myriad factors influencing daily life and can be used to guide professional practices” (Hyter, 2014, p. 107). Proponents of Critical Social Theory emphasize that it is understanding of the causes of social problems that is imperative, rather than simply identifying the presence of a phenomenon, because only acknowledging the presence of something denies it as an ongoing process (Neuman, 2003, p. 81). The use of Critical Social Theory then “seeks to provide people with a resource that will help them understand and change their world” (Neuman, 2003, p. 85). With the use of historical context; and an understanding that humans (and in turn human issues) are interconnected, unified under one global system, allows for the researcher to obtain the data necessary to challenge and convincingly defy the status quo through action (Hyter, 2014, p. 108-109).

Participants

Ethical clearance was obtained prior to the recording of observational data, as well as data collected from interviews. A copy of the HSIRB approval is provided in the appendix, page 39. A total of four participants in each country were interviewed, and are described in Table 1.
Among these participants, two from Senegal were professors of the geography at the University of Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), located in the capital of Senegal, Dakar. Both Professors 1 and 2 are faculty in the geography department and members of the Laboratory of human geography research unit at UCAD. Professional 1 is the assistant to the president of study planning of the NGO APECSY. Professional 2 is an economist, who formally worked for the ministry of economy for the Senegalese government in the 1980s and 1990s. The corresponding interviewees from the United States were two professors of the geography department from Western Michigan University. Professor 1 is in the geography department who specializes in economic geography, rural development, agriculture, and rural environmental issues. Professor 2, in the geography department specializes in human geography, economic development, and environmental geography. Professional 1 is the founder and interim executive director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN). Professional 2 is an associate professor emeritus from Western Michigan University where he worked in the Africana studies department.

Table 1. Descriptions of participants from Senegal and the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senegal</th>
<th>United States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professor 1:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Professor 1:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Geographer</td>
<td>• Geographer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Member of the Laboratory of human geography research unit at UCAD.</td>
<td>• Specializes in economic geography, rural development, agriculture, and rural environmental issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Focused her research on topics of health disparities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professor 2:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Professor 2:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Geographer</td>
<td>• Geographer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Member of the Laboratory of human geography research unit at UCAD.</td>
<td>• Specializes in human geography, economic development, and environmental geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Focused on topics of rural geography</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Professional 1:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Professional 1:</strong></td>
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- The assistant to the president of study planning of the NGO APECSY.
- APECSY focuses on development of the city Yoff, including urban housing and food issues of the area

- The founder and interim executive director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN).
- DBCFSN focuses on creating change in the Detroit area to promote food sovereignty for the black communities, while also encouraging healthy relationships, healthy sense of community, and healthy lifestyles.

Professional 2:
- An economist
- Formally worked for the ministry of economy for the Senegalese government in the 1980s and 1990s.
- In the late 1990s, he moved to the NGO world, after openly disagreeing with the policies that the Senegalese government had agreed to which were imposed by the IMF

Professional 2:
- An associate professor emeritus from Western Michigan University who specializes in the political economy of the African Diaspora.
- His research focuses on social movements and popular cultures of Africa as well as the consequences of globalization

Data Collection

Data was collected through interviews which were conducted in an ethnographic format, lasting approximately 30-minutes. Pre-determined questions were asked as an initial start, but many questions were later asked based on the content of the answers that the interviewees gave to previous questions. Examples of the initial questions that were asked included:

- How do you define a food desert?
- How do you believe food choices are made?
- What are the root causes of food insecurities? and
- How are food access issues being solved?

The interviews in Senegal were held in conjunction with fellow student researchers, of which some data was collected from questions they asked. Interpreters were used for some of the interviews with individuals who did not speak English.
Observations of food distribution areas, such as those located in the larger central markets, grocery stores, as well as smaller food stalls, focused on how the food distribution areas operated and what food options were available. Record keeping of each type of food distribution establishment as well as their proximity to each other and residential areas, was collected in a handwritten journal that was brought to each location while walking through neighborhoods, street markets, and grocery stores. Pictures of how accessible the food stalls were and how they were set up were also taken.

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using content analysis. Content analysis is a multilayer process that involves taking numerous examinations of the data, attempting to identify themes and condense themes when appropriate. The interviews were all typed into one Microsoft word document, having the coded name of the participant (e.g., Professor 1-Senegal) at the top to signify a new set of data. Starting with one interview at a time, the information was read through to gather common themes that would-emerge within each individual interview. A second examination was conducted to identify themes that emerged within one interview. Different color highlighters were used to signify each theme. Once each individual interview was color-coded by theme, all the interviews were opened on a computer desktop side by side, and an attempt was made to identify any common themes between all the interviews (e.g., monetary boundaries or transportation issues), or if there were themes that could be condensed into a common idea. Once these common ideas or themes were identified, they were all given the same color to represent that new theme group or common idea. These common themes or condensed ideas are the ones explored in this thesis.
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Analysis of the observations of the food distributions included review of the handwritten notes taken on the type of food distribution establishment as well as their proximity to each other and residential areas. It was noted which type of food seemed to be most abundant. Then a second review of the notes included focusing on the exact location of the food distribution area where each type of food was available. Also, a note was made if there seemed to be more of an abundance of a certain type of food at any given location. A third review of the data included categorizing each food distribution area as a street market, food stall, grocery store, or a person selling food on the side of the road in hand carried baskets.

Results

A globalized market has had a true impact on food sovereignty of countries large and small. A continual lack of research of second order change, or policy changes, has likely led to the continuing of food access issues. After an analysis of the data was concluded, two topics emerged and have been used to organize the results section. The results section has been broken up into two different topics; the way food sovereignty shows the consequences of globalization, and solutions to these consequences.

The way food sovereignty shows the consequences of globalization

A common idea or theme that came about while analyzing the data, was the idea that the terms and measurements that are used in the field to identify food access issues are limited in revealing true issues that food insecure people face. When asked in Senegal what they would present as their definition of a food desert, the term did not translate. The commonly used definition of a food desert in the United States incorporates the idea that the lack of fresh and
healthy food options come from individuals living physically distant from food distribution locations. Grocery stores are outside of a given radius of a neighborhood that decreases the availability of their services to the people. However, there was not a perceived issue of limited physical food access in Senegal. The following comments were made by Professor 1-Senegal:

“the people who live inland in more rural areas raise and grow their own food. People who lived in the city of Dakar had food markets, stalls, and independent people selling food all along the streets”.

These statements were validated by the findings of the observations made of the food distribution throughout the city. Within the neighborhood of Mermoz, there were small stalls that acted as convenience stores, selling snacks and drinks. Other stalls sold specialty items like meats and bread. There were women that would sit on the side of the road and sell mangos. In addition to all the stalls, there was also a small-scale grocery store in the neighborhood as well. See Figure 1.
These types of establishments could be found within walking distance of each other and residential areas. This was the set up that would be seen in many neighborhoods throughout the city of Dakar, the city of Yoff, and the city of Kaolack.

In Senegal, the cause of food insecurity for people came from a lack of means to obtain the food, which was a common perspective of all the interviewees. According to Professional 2-Senegal,
the average household in Senegal makes about $900 USD annually, but

impoverishment is considered the consumption of less than 2400 calories, which

40% to 45% of the Senegalese population is estimated to be below”.

People did not have enough money to buy the food that they needed. It was even noted, by Professor 1-Senegal, that the farmers who grew the food commonly had to sell their food that they would have otherwise eaten to pay off personal loans.

The cause of food insecurity for many of the farmers of Senegal is related to the policies that have been put in place that creates unequal competition between the farmers of Senegal, and the international farming industry that has been importing cheaper goods.

“The rice grown in the country is not subsidized by the government, which makes the imported rice cheaper, creating large losses for the people” (Professor 2-Senegal).

In addition, as mentioned in the literature review, tariffs are not effectively utilized because the IMF and World Bank impede the creation of tariffs. Professional 2-Senegal explains these influences further. He stated that the IMF gave the government “standby loans”, meaning that a portion of the money would be given, and the rest would be presented only after the policies were met and any policy changes were made. Then fees were also added if the government did not use the whole loan that was provided, insuring that interest would be paid on the whole amount. Professional 2-Senegal clarified that

“the reason why the government follows these stringent regulations is because the country needs the money to try and develop as an independent nation”.

Because of the lack of means, people’s food choices have changed, which has increased preventable diseases, according to Professor 1-Senegal.
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“The people of rural Senegal would traditionally eat the foods that they grew, and were able to sell whatever they had left over. Now, imports are being eaten more by everyone, which are including more processed foods into the diet of the Senegalese people” (Professor 1-Senegal).

She also states that

“there has been a noted increase in the number of preventable diseases including high blood pressure and diabetes, this being more prevalent in urban areas than rural, but both are being affected to a degree”.

Along with this according to Professor 1-Senegal, malnutrition has been deemed one of the leading causes of infant mortality in Senegal.

In the United States, the similar idea of a limitation in the current definition of “food desert” is present.

“Monetary limitations have narrowed the variety of foods that people are able to purchase and the types of stores they are able to shop within”, as Professional 1-United States reports.

Common prominent limitations of the current definition were the missing conversations of how transportation and lack of means are barriers that are not mentioned. In Kalamazoo, Michigan, the commercial area located on West Main street between Drake road and the exit for highway 131, grocery stores are in locations that have been constructed to be easily navigated by car; there are very limited or unsafe sidewalks, and the stores are very rarely in the middle of a neighborhood which can be seen in Figure 2.
Individuals who do not have cars are not able to safely access these grocery stores to obtain the healthy food options that they need. Both Professor 1 and 2-United States, mentioned that areas that are not considered food deserts have bus lines that could be used as a mode of transportation. However, they continued to note that this does not include how many transfers from one bus line to another may be involved, and then the burden of trying to transport all the groceries that were bought on the bus. Also,

“there is no consideration of those who may not be able to use the bus, such as individuals who are bed ridden”, as Professional 2-United States mentioned.
Important points made by Professional 1-United States, reported that there is a lack of involving the people that are the ones being affected in the process of creating the definition in the first place. This point within itself aids in the idea that the true obstacles that these food insecure people are facing may not even be addressed which denies any inclusion of food sovereignty being included as a part of the definition and the research that is done with this definition, as Professional 1-United States further explained. Also, beyond the idea of being outside of walking distance from a healthy food distributor, many neighborhoods are outside of walking distance of the food production as well. These neighborhoods that are considered food deserts often do not have community gardens, where food is produced within the neighborhood. Professional 2-United States reports that

“these people not have true control or sovereignty of their food, and are limited to the foods that are provided to them without their involvement.”

Changes to the way people in the United States have related to food and makes choices about the foods they eat has changed as well. Professional 2-United States mentioned that “most choices are made based on personal preferences, but these preferences have been connected to the education level, the family socioeconomic status, the structure of the family in which people were raised in, and the time people have to critically consider what is a good choice over different choice”.

As Professional 2-United States discussed,

“working class person who works for 8 hours a day, commutes to and from work for approximately 2 hours via a city bus system, attempts to sleep for 8 hours; as well as allowing for 4 hours to eat, clean themselves, and talk to family and
friends alludes to no time to educate themselves to know how other people live
and how others are solving similar issues with which they are living,“

The solutions to these consequences

A common issue when there have been attempts made to find solutions to these consequences, is that there is a lack of inclusion of the people who are directly affect by the consequences in the brainstorming of ideas, as mentioned by Professional 1-United States in the previous section. The people who are experiencing the problems everyday are the ones who are most apt to be able to give sustainable solutions. The interviewees were asked what some of the possible solutions being explored and what concepts should be considered further. To summarize a point Professional 2-Senegal made in the previous section, a country will not able to truly develop if it is financially tied to an organization such as the IMF or the world bank. Professional 2-Senegal reports that based on a 5-year plan,

“the government now has less than 20% of the financial budget incorporating loans”. As of right now, Professional 2-Senegal states that “Senegal does not have anything that they owe to the IMF, but are still restricted by some policies implemented by the world bank through soft loans Senegal still receives”.

Other governmental intervention that was noted through the interviews. Professor 1-Senegal, reported on the work that Programme Alimentaire Mondial (PAM), or the World Food Program (WFP) in English. This program works in collaboration with the Senegalese government along with other donors, and focus on major issues that surround food insecurity of the country including: malnutrition, supporting smallholder farmers, disaster risk reduction, as well as promoting gender equality and other vulnerable groups (WFP, 2017). The Senegalese
government has also been trying to create change in the implementation of new policies as well.

Now that the policy restrictions that were enforced by the IMF have been resolved, Professor 1-Senegal states that they have been promoting a policy that would increase the consumption of rice produced in Senegal so that there is a rate of 50/50 consumption of imported rice and rice grown in Senegal. Professor 1-Senegal also noted that this policy also includes “education to improve the quality of the production of the rice” as well.

Outside of the governmental influence, NGOs and whole communities have been taking on the challenge of solving their own food security issues as well. Professor 1-Senegal talked about some of the initiatives that have been implemented to help infant mortality and how malnutrition has been an influence on this issue. There have been steps taken to combat these issues, which starts with education. Professor 1-Senegal reports that

“How NGOs are focusing on education on how to prepare safe foods and how to feed children” and “at home nurses are also being looked at as an avenue to help nourish children”.

To help in a larger urban setting, Professor 1-Senegal states that there has been focus on private enterprises focusing on increasing urban farms. A great example of this was reported by Professional 1-Senegal, who is a part of an NGO which is working to implement many of these ideas in the city of Yoff, and trying to create an ecovillage. Not only have they started plans for urban farming, they have also taken steps to solve the large issues of monetary constraints that people face when trying to purchase food.

“In Yoff the community comes together to provide for those who have less. This is organized around the Imam (religious leader) who identifies the suffering, and the community brings collections to the mosque” Professional 1-Senegal.
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During the US interviews, some drawbacks to commonly employed solutions were explained, and many concepts that should be explored further as possible solutions were offered.

In the United States, urban farming has been utilized as a solution to food deserts in inner city area, and have been piloted by young people, a concept that Professor 1-United States spoke on.

However, “a barrier that is commonly confronted by these young people is the difficulty they have getting loans for land to farm on” (Professor 1-United States).

Professor 2-United States also brings up the important idea of “what good is a community garden if no one wants to eat from it?”.

There is still the possibility that even if others were to come in the work the land to aid in food production, this may not solve the issue. Professor 2-United States stated that

“issues with others coming in to work the land that would provide for a community that they are not a part of is that it conveys an idea that these people need someone to come in and save them; they need a white knight savior.”

He went on to say that the reverse idea is also that

“the people coming to help have an elitist mentality; believing that the people in need of help are completely helpless, and cannot do for themselves.”

Professor 2-United States exclaimed that there is a need to break down this stereotype to allow for mutual benefit for both parties involved.

Professor 1-United States continues the conversation of the limitations of current possible solutions by reporting that farmers’ markets are not cutting it either.

“On average”, according to Professor 1-United States, “the person who is shopping there [the farmers’ market] is not a low-income individual”, (or someone who would be considered to have food access issues).
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He reports on a possible salvation to tackling the issue of monetary confinements people may confront. Kalamazoo’s farmers’ market has a program called Double Up Bucks, and Professor 1-United States informs that this program is used to help make the dollars that people have go further. Some of the perceived limitation of the program are that people would not feel comfortable being singled out as using the program. Professor 1-United States stated that “not every vendor at the farmers’ market accepts the double up bucks, so the people have to possible be denied when trying to use the bucks to purchase food”.

Professor 1-United States stated that there is huge potential for this program once some of the barriers are resolved.

Many more concepts were presented as possible solutions to food access issues. Professional 1-United States stated that the mere principles of food sovereignty are the answer. Professional 1-United States stated that “currently policies are functions of disempowerment”. He mentioned the idea that the people who are the ones that have to deal with the issues of food access are the ones who should be empowered to create food systems that help themselves. Professional 1-United States stated that “right now profit is what is the driver [of how policies around food are created]

and people’s health is secondary”.

He gave many examples of other countries where individual groups have put the people’s health first and the programs that they have created to help promote this idea. In Brazil, Professional 1-United States stated that there are what they call “People’s restaurants”, community created establishments that are run by the peasants of Brazil that provide cheap meals for community members. Professional 1-United States continued by reporting that the government also helps this initiative by subsidizing local foods to help allow for the meals to stay at a lower cost. He
also gave the example of South Africa, were the women are being trained to be skilled and hold jobs.

“We with this training, the women are also working to become participatory in destroying the patriarchy” (Professional 1-United States).

Having control of the land has been communicated as being just as important as the food itself. Professional 2-United States gave many examples of countries that have complete control of their land, with no sharing of control at all. Professional 2-United States reported that “owning the land allows creation of the laws that govern the land.” He makes note that control of the land includes control over seeds to grow the food in the land, fertilizers to nourish the land, and pesticides the protect the crops grown from the land. He made mention of how currently, there is a monopoly created by the selling and distribution of infertile seeds that creates a dependence on the companies that sell them.

“Having control over these would in turn eliminate monopolies that exist within the food industry”, something that Professional 2-United States reported as a must.

Owning the land and growing the food also allows for control over how the food is produced and processed as well as the pricing of the food. Once the food is produced, Professional 2-United States urged the importance of “having a largely reliable food distribution system that does not rely on limited natural resources such as oil”.

Over all, a cultural shift would have to be made in the United States to go back to having a true connection with food and finding enjoyment in the preparation of the food. Professor 2-United States sums up this point the best by stating that we need to “move away from the ease of
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processed foods and back to getting real food”. As mentioned before, a trend away from being profit driven to people driven is a must.

“Fare wages would be a great way to start this by empowering people to be able to make better choices in the foods they eat, as opposed to having to only chose from the foods they can afford” (Professor 2-United States).

Discussion

As mentioned, the term of food desert does not work as a conclusive definition of what the actual issues are and does not help to find the root causes to solve the issues. Transportation issues and monetary limitations are left out of the definition and the conversation. Systematic impoverishment is a basic problem, which leads other issues like health inequalities and lifestyle inequalities. Individuals living an impoverished upbringing without the necessary transportation to be able to make healthier food choices continue the cyclical patterns which can lead to the continuation of preventable health concerns.

Strict policies prevent development, which leaves the country, and in turn its people, impoverished. If the country is not able to develop, the people will continue to not have the means necessary to acquire the healthy foods that they need. As strong solutions, the communities and countries have to become financially independent and have direct control over how their land, and in turn the food grown on this land, is governed. Governmental involvement has increased the policy influence to decrease imports and support local efforts of food production such as urban farming and promoting locally grown rice, with an example being the work done in the city of Yoff in Senegal. Urban gardens have been started by young people in the US, but are commonly fraught with issues regarding obtaining financial backing from banks.
Other limitations are found from stereotypes of working the land. Often, the areas where food deserts are located are also home to a large population of African American people. As explored in the review of literature, there are still strong ties with slavery, and the idea of working the land is not a sign of progress and moving away from the past for some members of this population. The mentality that working the land is a step backwards, and not a sign of success or progress, must be overcome. Empowerment of people who are directly affected by food insecurity is the best way to enable them to help themselves and create change to combat the issues that they live with. Such means of empowerment can include owning the land that the food is produced on, and allowing for a true governance over the land and the food that comes from it. A cultural shift is necessary for people to become more connected with their foods, the processing of their foods, and how these can affect their everyday lifestyles.

Most of the research that has been reviewed has mentioned solutions that act as temporary fixes to a systemic issue. These first order level changes should be encouraged to continue the work that has been ongoing to curb the impact that food access issues have on those who are food insecure. The involvement of legislators to ensure that funding of the SNAP program continues through the farm bill will be imperative to ensure that programs continue to provide the monetary aid that has been able to help people. As seen in the neighborhood of Grand Rapids, local food gleaning opportunities should be explored more as a way to provide direct food access for people in the form of possible food banks possibly in Senegal as well as other areas in the United States.

It is most important to recognize that the people that are directly impacted the most should be able to determine exactly what needs to be changed. Community involvement and community cooperation can create the change in culture that is needed to allow people to
reconnect with the food that they eat and the land on which they live. The idea of a more local economy echoes ideas of the past when food distribution was more local, and everyone knew the local butcher. In these types of systems, the money stayed within the community and allowed for it to develop and flourish. An interview of Judy Wicks reports on these ideas that Wicks explains in further detail in her book, *Good Morning Beautiful Business*. During the interview by David Kupfer, an environmental activist, Wicks was quoted stating the following when asked about a local economy:

“It’s an economy in which basic needs are produced close to home in ways that are sustainable and don’t harm the environment. This requires a cooperative mentality, because there’s no such thing as a stand-alone sustainable business — it must be part of a sustainable system. Individuals, or individual businesses, can’t provide for all our basic needs by themselves. We need a local food system, a local energy system, local clothing manufacturing, and green building methods. In the face of climate change and peak oil, our survival depends on community self-reliance” (Wick, 2008).

Yakini (2010) has written on the topic of strategies that can be implemented to increase food security in Detroit, which could be used elsewhere. Yakini’s ideas and those of Wick echo each other regarding self-reliance. He wrote about four different strategies, one of which focused on the utilization of urban space to be used as gardens.

“Detroters have backyards that can be transformed into lush gardens that can supply more food than one family can consume” (Yakini, 2010).
Limitations & Future Studies

Some limitations of this work may be due to interviewing techniques, including different styles of interviewing in different countries as well as the need of an interpreter for some of the interviews. More detailed preparation of data collection during the interviews, such as having an organized and replicable way of recording the interviews, would have been useful in ensuring that data was collected the same way during each interview. More detailed preparation time with the interpreter could have decreased any chance of ideas or questions being misinterpreted during the interviews.

Next steps for this study would include exploring the benefits and limitations of local economies and what a change in economy could offer to the possible solutions to food sovereignty issues. Research on examples of where these types of economies exist would be necessary. One question that should be asked is what are the possible barriers that one may faced when implementing a local economy initially?

Conclusion

There are commonalities that are found in the U.S. Midwest and Western Africa regarding issues with food access and infringement of a country’s ability to act on food sovereignty principles. A movement away from a globalized market economy with a decrease in importation of cheap goods that can damage a national economy, is the first step towards financial independence. Giving a voice to the people that are directly impacted by moving to more local economies would aid in being sure the main causes of food insecurity are resolved, as well as people having the opportunity to thrive.
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References


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Kupfer, D. “Table for six billion, please Judy Wicks on her plan to change the world, one restaurant at a time.” The Sun Magazine, August 2008. http://thesunmagazine.org/


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http://www1.wfp.org/countries/senegal


Yakini, M. (2010). Four strategies to build food security in detroit's ' african american' community. Highland Park, Mich.:
Appendix

Questions asked during interviews:

• How do you define a food desert?

• What would be a better term used other than a food desert?
  • How do you believe food choices are made?
  • What are the root causes of food insecurities?
  • How are food access issues being solved?

HSIRB approval
Date:  May 9, 2016

To:  Yvette Hyter, Principal Investigator
     W.F. Santiago-Valles, Co-Principal Investigator
     Sarah Summy, Co-Principal Investigator
     Student Investigators: Theresa Bell, Kelley Buc, Nia Evans, Kelsey Gough,
                          Anna Mainero, Jesse Marriott, Caitlin Milican, Molly Milstein,
                          Amal Mohamed, Alexandra Przewozniak

From:  Amy Naugle, Ph.D., Chair

Re:  HSIRB Project Number 12-05-12

This letter will serve as confirmation that the changes to your research project titled “Cultural Connections in Senegal Study Abroad” requested in your memo received May 9, 2016 (to add student investigators Theresa Bell, Kelley Buc, Nia Evans, Kelsey Gough, Anna Mainero, Jesse Marriott, Caitlin Milican, Molly Milstein, Amal Mohamed, and Alexandra Przewozniak; to remove student investigators Amber Huver, Autumn Kearney, Monica Naida, Anna Poggensee, Kellie Ruggles, Madison Russell, and Katherine Williamson) have been approved by the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board.

The conditions and the duration of this approval are specified in the Policies of Western Michigan University.

Please note that you may only conduct this research exactly in the form it was approved. You must seek specific board approval for any changes in this project. You must also seek reapproval if the project extends beyond the termination date noted below. In addition if there are any unanticipated adverse reactions or unanticipated events associated with the conduct of this research, you should immediately suspend the project and contact the Chair of the HSIRB for consultation.

The Board wishes you success in the pursuit of your research goals.

Approval Termination:  May 15, 2017
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HSIRB Project Number:

6. Are there any changes in study personnel (add or remove investigators) not previously reported to the HSIRB?  
   Yes  No
   If you need to add an investigator, provide details on an Additional Investigator(s) Form (available at http://www.wmich.edu/research/forms/complianceforms.html). To remove an investigator submit a memo to the HSIRB detailing the change.

7. Since the last approval (initial or continuing review) has there been any modifications or additions to the protocol, not previously reported to the HSIRB to which you have responded to the following?  
   a. Procedures  Yes  No  
   b. Subjects  Yes  No  
   c. Design  Yes  No  
   d. Data collection  Yes  No

8. Has any instrumentation been modified or added to the protocol that has not already been approved by the HSIRB?  
   Yes  No  
   If yes, attach new instrumentation and a memo indicating the modifications made.

9. Are there changes to the consent/assent form not previously reported to the HSIRB?  
   Yes  No  
   If yes, attach new consent/assent form and a memo indicating changes made.

Verification of Consent Procedure: Provide copies of the whole consent documents signed by the last two subjects enrolled in the project. Cover the signature in such a way that the name is not clear but there is evidence of signature. If subjects are not required to sign the consent document, provide a copy of the most current consent document being used.

SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH

10. Have there been any adverse events, unexpected or unanticipated study-related problems which have not previously been reported to HSIRB?  
    Yes  No  
    If yes, provide details on an attached sheet.

11. Is there new risk or benefit information not previously reported to the IRB?  
    Yes  No  
    If yes, attach a memo indicating the risk or benefit information.

12. Summarize progress of the research using non-technical language that can be easily understood by a reviewer outside the discipline. Please use complete sentences to briefly summarize the research since the last review (initial or continuing). This is a research project for an inter-disciplinary study abroad experience to Senegal. Every year there are new student investigators. Primary and co-investigators (course instructors) remain the same.

13. List and describe any complaints about the research study since the last HSIRB review (initial or continuing review); include action taken to resolve the complaint (If not applicable, type NA).  NA

14. List any voluntary withdrawals by participants from the study since the last HSIRB review (initial or continuing review); include action taken as a result of the withdrawals. (If not applicable, type NA).  NA

Revised 06/2013 WMU HSIRB (all other copies obsolete).
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HSIRB Project Number:

SUBJECT RECRUITMENT

15. Have research subjects been enrolled (or subject records, specimens, etc. obtained)? Yes  No
Provide a letter of explanation if no research subjects have been enrolled (or subject records, specimens, etc. obtained).

16. Total number of subjects approved in original protocol: 100

17. Total number of subjects enrolled so far: 80
   If applicable: Number of subjects in experimental group: Number in control group:

18. Estimated number of subjects yet to be enrolled: 20

Please remember to include a clean original of the consent documents to receive a renewed approval stamp.

INVESTIGATOR’S ASSURANCE

I certify that the information contained in this HSIRB Application for Continuing Review and all attachments are true and correct. I certify that the research has been and will continue to be conducted according to the protocol as approved by Human Subjects Institutional Review Board.

I agree that I will not implement any changes in the protocol until such changes have been reviewed and approved by HSIRB. If, during the course of the research, unanticipated risks or harm to subjects are discovered, I will report them to HSIRB immediately. I agree to follow all applicable federal regulations, guidance, state and local laws, and university policies related to the protection of human subjects in research, as well as professional practice standards and generally accepted good research practices for investigators.

If this is a FINAL REPORT you may return the form electronically (signature is not required).

Principal Investigator/Faculty Advisor Signature

Date

28 April 2016

Co-Principal or Student Investigator Signature

Date

28 April 2016

Co-Principal or Student Investigator Signature

Date

4/26/16

Approved for a one-year extension by the HSIRB:

HSIRB Chair Signature

Date

5/9/14

Revised 06/2013 WMU HSIRB (all other copies obsolete).
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HSIRB Project Number:

SUBJECT RECRUITMENT

15. Have research subjects been enrolled (or subject records, specimens, etc. obtained)? ☑Yes ☐No
   Provide a letter of explanation if no research subjects have been enrolled (or subject records, specimens, etc. obtained).

16. Total number of subjects approved in original protocol: 100

17. Total number of subjects enrolled so far: 80
   If applicable: Number of subjects in experimental group: Number in control group:

18. Estimated number of subjects yet to be enrolled: 20

Please remember to include a clean original of the consent documents to receive a renewed approval stamp.

INVESTIGATOR'S ASSURANCE

I certify that the information contained in this HSIRB Application for Continuing Review and all attachments are true and correct. I certify that the research has been and will continue to be conducted according to the protocol as approved by Human Subjects Institutional Review Board. I agree that I will not implement any changes in the protocol until such changes have been reviewed and approved by HSIRB. If, during the course of the research, unanticipated risks or harm to subjects are discovered, I will report them to HSIRB immediately. I agree to follow all applicable federal regulations, guidance, state and local laws, and university policies related to the protection of human subjects in research, as well as professional practice standards and generally accepted good research practices for investigators.

If this is a FINAL REPORT you may return the form electronically (signature is not required).

Principal Investigator/Faculty Advisor Signature

Date: 28 April 2016

Co-Principal or Student Investigator Signature

Date: 28 April 2016

Co-Principal or Student Investigator Signature

Date: 28 April 2016

Approved for a one-year extension by the HSIRB:

HSIRB Chair Signature

Date: 5/9/14

Revised 06/2013 WMU HSIRB (all other copies obsolete).
Where will this study take place?
This study will take place in a location that is easy for you, such as at your school or at your shop or at your work. The investigators will travel to your location.

What will you be asked to do if you choose to participate in this study?
You will be asked to take part in an informal interview or in a group conversation. Also, you will be asked to have pictures and videos of you taken while you do your daily work.

What is the time commitment for participating in this study?
Taking part in this study will take about one hour of your time.

What information is being measured during the study?
We are interested in learning more about what you think about the effects of globalization on language, literacy, education, structural adjustment, migration, health, food policies, the environment, and problem solving strategies. We will review your interview/conversation to identify themes that focus on some of these topics. We will compare the themes that are found in your interview/conversation with those found in the interviews/conversations of people from Senegal and from the U.S.

What are the risks of participating in this study and how will these risks be minimized?
One risk that you might have for participating in this study is that political concerns might come to your mind. Thinking about the political concerns in your country may be stressful for you. You can make statements that are “off the record,” which means they will not be recorded or written down. You can stop the interview or stop participating in the conversation group at any time without explanation. We will treat the information you share and the pictures/videos that we take with respect. Also, you will have a chance to listen to your interview or conversation. When you listen to it, you can change any part of it. You can correct it. You can ask us to erase parts of it or all of it. There will be no problem. Once the interview or conversation is written out (transcribed) your name will not be on it. We will give you a pretend name, like James or Kathy. No one will be able to know who provided the interview or took part in the conversation group.

Another risk is that pictures and videos could be described without connecting them to your cultural practices. The researchers will work closely with collaborators in Senegal who were born and raised in that country. The collaborators will help us interpret the cultural practices.

All of the information collected from you is confidential. That means that your name will not appear on any papers or transcripts. The forms will all be coded with a number. Santiago, Yvette, and Sarah will keep a separate list with names of participants and their code numbers. Once the
data are collected and analyzed, the master list will be destroyed. The audiotapes will be erased after they are transcribed. The transcripts of the interview will be kept in a locked file drawer in Hyter or Summy’s office for at least three years. If we write about this study in an academic journal, discuss it in a class or present it at an academic conference; only parts of the transcript and of the videotape will be shown.

What are the benefits of participating in this study?
This study does not have direct benefits for you. This interview/conversation may give you the chance to share your ideas about issues that affect your life and your work. The information you share may help students and teachers in the U. S. understand your country and your daily life better. The information you share may be useful for improving school curricula in West Africa and the U. S.

Are there any costs associated with participating in this study?
Taking part in this study will not cost money. Taking part in this study will take at least one hour of your time. Also, taking part in this study may increase your memories of some good or bad things that happened at some time in your country or in your life.

Is there any compensation for participating in this study?
You will not be paid to take part in this study. You will receive a small gift that shows that we are grateful for your time and for the information you share with us. A small gift may be such useful items as ink pens, pads of papers, or book marks. Also, you can receive a copy of the transcript of your interview/conversation, a copy of the pictures we take of you and a link to the Cultural Connections web page.

Who will have access to the information collected during this study?
The investigators and the research team will be able to read the information collected during this study. Also, the information collected during this study may be shared with teachers, students, NGOs, and at professional conferences.

What if you want to stop participating in this study?
You can stop taking part in this study at any time and it will be ok. Even if you finish the interview or the conversation and decide later that you do not want us to have it, you can tell us and it will be ok. Even if you decide later that you no longer want us to have your picture and video, you can tell us and we will erase it. It will not be a problem. [Also, the investigator can stop including you in the study.]
You can contact us if you have any questions before or during the study. Our names and email addresses are here:

- Dr. Yvette D. Hyter (yvette.hyter@wmich.edu)
- Dr. Sarah Summy (sarah.summy@wmich.edu)
- Dr. W. F. Santiago-Valles (Santiago.valles@wmich.edu)

You can contact the Chair of the WMU Human Subjects Institutional Review Board if you have questions about the study. She can be called at 00-1-269-387-8293. Also, you can contact the WMU Vice President for Research. He can be called at 00-1-269-387-8298.
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Western Michigan University, Haenicke Institute for Global Education, Principal Investigator-Dr. Yvette Hyer, Co-Investigators-Dr. Santiago Valles, Dr. Sarah Sunniy, Student Investigators Bell, T., Buc, K., Evans, N., Gough, K., Mainero, A., Marriott, J., Millican, C., Milstein, M., Mohamed, A., Przwoziak,, Title of Study-Cultural Connections in Senegal Study Abroad

This consent document has been approved for use for one year by the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (HSIRB) as indicated by the stamped date and signature of the board chair in the upper right corner. Do not participate in this study if the stamped date is older than one year.

Statement 1
I have read this informed consent document to the potential participant. The risks and benefits have been explained to the participant. He/She agreed to take part in an interview or a conversation group.

__________________________________________________________
Researcher Please Print Your Name

__________________________________________________________
Researcher’s signature _______________________________ Date

Statement 2
I have read this informed consent document to the potential participant. The risks and benefits have been explained to the participant. He/She agreed to let the pictures and videos taken of him/her be compared to pictures and videos taken in Senegal and the U.S.

__________________________________________________________
Researcher Please Print Your Name

__________________________________________________________
Researcher’s signature _______________________________ Date
The Consequences of Globalization Pertaining to Food Sovereignty in West Africa and U.S. Midwest

Informed Consent Document - United States

Western Michigan University

Principal Investigator: Yvette D. Hyter, Ph.D., Speech Pathology & Audiology
Co-Principal Investigator: W.F. Santiago-Valles, Ph.D., Africana Studies
Co-Principal Investigator: Sarah Summy, Ed.D., Special Education and Literacy Studies

Title of Study: Cultural Connections in Senegal Study Abroad

You have been invited to participate in a research project called “Cultural Connections: In Senegal Study Abroad.” We are doing this research to learn what people in West Africa and the United States think about the consequences of globalization in their daily lives. Please read all of this form. I will also read it out loud. Please ask any questions if something is not clear.

What are we trying to find out in this study?
We want to learn about the effect that international loans, and the increase of a global economy had on life in Senegal and in the U.S. Midwest. We are interested in several topics. Those topics are public policies about literacy, language use, services for people with disabilities, education, the arts, health systems and policies, and problem solving strategies. The information you share with us may help make the school curriculum better in West Africa and the U.S. We would like to work together with you to develop solutions to shared problems.

Who can participate in this study?
Participants can be any adult of 18 years old or older. We are interested in including adults who are university professors, schoolteachers, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, university students, parents, labor union leaders, government officials, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Personnel, community organizers, farmers, artisans, or migrants. Adults who do not give their consent to participate in this study will not be included.
Where will this study take place?
This study will take place in a location that is easy for you, such as at your school or at your place of business, a location of your choice at your university, your shop or at your work. The investigators will travel to your location.

What will you be asked to do if you choose to participate in this study?
You will be asked to take part in an informal interview or in a group conversation.

What is the time commitment for participating in this study?
Taking part in this study will take about one hour of your time.

What information is being measured during the study?
We are interested in learning more about what you think about the effects of globalization on language, literacy, education, structural adjustment, migration, health, food policies, the environment, arts, health systems, and problem solving strategies. We will review your interview/conversation to identify themes that focus on some of these topics. We will compare the themes that are found in your interview/conversation with those found in interviews/conversations of people from Senegal and from the U.S.

What are the risks of participating in this study and how will these risks be minimized?
One risk that you might have for participating in this study is that political concerns might come to your mind. Thinking about the political concerns in your country may be stressful for you. You can make statements that are “off the record,” which means they will not be recorded or written down. You can stop the interview or stop participating in the conversation group at any time without explanation. We will treat the information you share and the pictures/videos that we take with respect. Only photos of classrooms, school buildings, and learning environments will be taken, no photos with participants present in the photo will be taken or used. Also, you will have a chance to listen to your interview or conversation. When you listen to it, you can change any part of it. You can correct it. You can ask us to erase parts of it or all of it. There will be no problem. Once the interview or conversation is written out (transcribed) your name will not be on it. We will give you a pretend name, like James or Kathy. No one will be able to know who provided the interview or took part in the conversation group.

Another risk is that pictures and videos could be described without connecting them to your cultural context. The researchers will work closely with collaborators in Senegal, who were born and raised in that country and with study participants the United States to make the appropriate cultural connections to any pictures or videos taken. The collaborators and study participants will help us interpret the cultural context.

All of the information collected from you is confidential. That means your name will not appear on any papers or transcripts. The forms will all be coded with a number. Dr. Yvette Hyter
will keep a separate list with names of participants and their code numbers. Once the data are collected and analyzed, the master list will be destroyed. The audiotapes will be erased after they are transcribed. The transcripts of the interview will be kept in a locked file drawer in Dr. Hyter’s language lab for at least three years. If we write about this study in an academic journal, discuss it in a class or present it at an academic conference; only parts of the transcript and of the videotape will be shown, and your name will not be used.

What are the benefits of participating in this study?
This study does not have direct benefits for you. This interview or conversation may give you the chance to share your ideas about issues that affect your life and your work. The information you share may help students and teachers in the U. S. and in Senegal understand your daily life better. The information you share may be useful for improving school curricula in West Africa and the U. S.

Are there any costs associated with participating in this study?
Participation in this study will not cost you money. Taking part in this study will take at least one hour of your time. Also, taking part in this study may increase your memories of some good or bad things that happened at some time in your country or in your life.

Is there any compensation for participating in this study?
You will not be paid to participate in this study. You may receive a small gift that shows that we are grateful for your time and for the information you share with us. A small gift may be such useful items as ink pens, pads or paper, or bookmarks. Also, you can receive a copy of the transcript of your interview/conversation, a copy of the pictures we take of you and a link to the Cultural Connections webpage.

Who will have access to the information collected during this study?
The investigators and the research team will be able to read the information collected during this study. Also, the information collected during this study may be shared with teachers, students, NGOs, and at professional conferences.

What if you want to stop participating in this study?
You can stop taking part in this study at any time and it will be ok. Even if you finish the interview or the conversation and decide later that you do not want us to have it, you can tell us and it will be ok. Even if you decide later that you no longer want us to have your pictures and videos, you can tell us and we will erase it. It will not be a problem. (Also, the investigator can stop including you in the study.)

You can contact us if you have any questions before or during the study. Our names and email addresses are here:
- Dr. Yvette D. Hyter (Yvette.hyter@wmich.edu)
- Dr. Sarah Summy (sarah.summy@wmich.edu)
Dr. W.F. Santiago-Valles (Santiago.valles@wmich.edu)

You can contact the Chair of the WMU Human Subjects Institutional Review Board if you have questions about the study. She can be called at 269-387-8293. Also, you can contact the WMU Vice President for Research. She can be called at 269-387-8298.

This consent document has been approved for use for one year by the Human Subjects Institutional Review board (HSIRB) as indicated by the stamped date and signature of the board chair in the upper right corner. Do not participate in this study if the stamped date is older than one year.

I have read the consent document. Also, the interviewer has summarized the document for me. The risks and benefits have been explained to me. I agree to take part in an interview or a conversation group.

Participant Please Print Your Name: ______________________________________

Participant’s signature __________________________ Date __________________________
The Consequences of Globalization Pertaining to Food Sovereignty in West Africa and U.S. Midwest

Western Michigan University, Haenicke Institute for Global Education, Principal Investigator-Dr. Yvette Hyer, Co-Investigators-Dr. Santiago Valles, Dr. Sarah Summy, Student Investigators-Bell, T., Bsc, K., Evans, N., Gough, K., Mainiero, A., Marriott, J., Milician, C., Milstein, M., Mohamed, A., Przewozniak, A. Title of Study-Cultural Connections in Senegal Study Abroad

Western Michigan University Photo/Video Release Form

I understand that __________________________ (name of talent) is the subject of a photograph, slide, videotape, and/or audiotape produced by Western Michigan University for the Cultural Connections in Senegal 2016 Study Abroad Project

I understand that the intended use of the finished production is for the Cultural Connections web page (http://www.cultureconnections.org), to augment classroom discussions about the project, to augment presentations focused on the study abroad project at professional conferences, and to advertise future study abroad opportunities at WMU.

I hereby waive any liability of Western Michigan University, its officers and employees, vendors, or subcontractors and the above-mentioned client and its directors, trustees, employees, or officers regarding the use of my likeness or voice. I further agree not to seek compensation including residual fees or royalties from such use other than that defined in a separate contract.

Signature of talent or legal guardian

Print name of talent

Relationship of guardian

Address

Email Address:

Phone number: ________________________ Date: ________________________

Project Title/Description of Photo:


I agree that my likeness may be part of the stock files of W.M.U. for use in future production without notification.

Signature of talent or legal guardian