Class #26: Obesity, Social Movements, and Adult Learning

Discussions Questions for Class on December 3

Reading: Bailey-Davis dissertation

Because writing assignments are meant to prepare you for class discussion, you must post a draft question on the Moodle Forum for this date before class if you want your submission to count. After posting a draft you must revise and submit your question by **Sunday, December 8** if you want your response to count for a grade. Include your name and the full question # in all responses.

When you approach this reading, like many of our readings, appreciate that you should look for and understand three aspects of the text. In responding to discussion questions show full understanding of these aspects while relating them to the specific content of the question.

1. Most readings discuss a specific public issue (in this case obesity) and the reading gives a critique or analytic way of understanding this issue (in this case having to do with the commodification of food.)
2. Most readings have a theoretical dimension, where sociological theories are presented and then used to understand the issue at hand. In this case the theory of social movements and of adult learning are presented and used.
3. Policy issues and theoretical dimensions relate to broader issues of the course where you must imaginatively see how the particular material in the readings relate to broad issues that may be somewhat distant (on the surface) from the material at hand. In this case, we have had discussions about how associations foster participatory democracy. Here we have a case of a specific social movements (local food) that the author thinks might help us understand and change a large social problem (eating behavior).

**Discussion Questions**

26-1 Tell what social movements theory and adult learning theory are about in Bailey-Davis’s presentation, what is inadequate about each from her perspective, and why she needs them both to develop her research.

26-2 Why are people obese in America? Bailey-Davis gives us a general theory of how economic conditions in the food industry encourage obesity and why the local food movement represents a plausible intervention to change eating behavior. Describe and explain her theory.
26-3 Discuss the local food movement as an example of a social movement aimed at producing social and political change. Compare it to other movements for change discussed in this course. Discuss the organizing problems Bailey-Davis recognizes in the local food movement. Talk about the effectiveness of this sort of organizing for producing significant social change. (This last point is a vast topic but your response should be brief—one or two paragraphs.)