The Department of Nutritional Sciences
Fall 2017 Seminar Series

Guest Speaker:

Ethan Schoolman, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Human Ecology
School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

“Why buy local food? Exploring whether contemporary local food systems are achieving environmental and social goals”

Host: Nurgul Fitzgerald, PhD, RD
The Department of Nutritional Sciences, Rutgers University

Thursday, December 14, 2017, 11:00AM
New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health,
Conference Room 205, 61 Dudley Road

Advocates for robust local food systems make a wide range of arguments: local food is often portrayed as better tasting, more nutritious, better for the environment, and an important part of a culture of healthy eating—not to mention a way for consumers to reconnect with the land. Some of these claims are relatively subjective, but many represent testable hypotheses that are just beginning to be systematically explored. In this talk, Dr. Schoolman will present findings—some preliminary—from a number of different studies into how local food is grown, and where it is sold. Looking at data gathered in Michigan, Ohio, and New Jersey, Dr. Schoolman argues that the environmental and social characteristics of local food systems likely vary considerably across time and over place—offering clear opportunities for policymakers and NGOs to make local food more environmentally sustainable and socially just.