KITCHEN KINSHIP:

HOW CHEFS TRANSFORM CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL NOTIONS OF VITAL RELATIONS

Kelly Alexander
The Cult of the Celebrity Chef Goes Global

They start behind the counter and end up in the spotlight. How the phenomenon of the celebrity chef has transformed the restaurant industry and even changed the way we eat.

By Lisa Abend | Monday, June 21, 2010

David Chang was asleep in his aisle seat on a recent flight to Melbourne when searing pain jolted him awake: a flight attendant had accidentally spilled boiling water on his arm. That the worst scalding of the Manhattan megachef’s life occurred in business class rather than in a busy kitchen was perhaps surprising. But that was nothing compared with what awaited him on the ground. Soon after he landed, news of the accident made the Australian papers and then, thanks to the global hum of diligent foodies at their keyboards, quickly appeared on websites around the world. The shocking headline: "Chef Burned."

It’s been a few decades since we started turning...
Go for toque

Chefs are the new rock stars—and they've got the groupies to prove it.

By Rebecca Flint Marx, Illustration by Jesse Philips  Wed May 7 2008
cook like a rock star

ANNE BURRELL

with Suzanne Lenzer

125 Recipes, Lessons, and Culinary Secrets

From the host of Secrets of a Restaurant Chef and cohost of Worst Cooks in America

Foreword by Mario Batali
Are Chefs the new Rock Stars?

3- They are… strange.

Might be that mixture of arrogance, deep knowledge of their job and everything that surrounds it, with a hint of more arrogance that makes them so handsome and damned. They have a strong personality and are not afraid to show it, and this just helps them in their popularity. How can’t you love that?

_Nigella Lawson, TV chef-star_
How Much $$$ Do We Spend Dining Out?

- How many times does the average American go out to lunch per week?
- Who spends more $$$ going out to lunch: men or women?
Would You Care to Lunch?

- 70% of Americans go out for lunch. They average close to two lunches out per week and spend $10 per outing. That works out to an average of $18/week, $936/year.

- Men are more likely to dine out for lunch.

- Women spend an average of just under $15/week; men spend 44% more, about $21/week.

- 1% of people spend more than $50 dining out for lunch per week. 30% report never going out for lunch.
How Much Time Do We Spend Dining Out?

• How much time do Americans spend choosing a restaurant?

• How many minutes per day does the average American spend eating?
How Much Time Do We Spend Dining Out?

• In the last year, 25% of Americans spent 2 hours or more choosing a restaurant for a special occasion; 15% spent 2 hours planning an IRA investment.

• Americans age 15+ spend about 2.5 hours/day eating. 67 of those minutes are eating as a “primary” activity; the remaining time is spent eating while doing something else (watching tv, driving, working).

• 11% of the population spent at least 4.5 hours eating each day.
A GOOD DEFINITION OF KINSHIP

Kinship (kĭn shĭp′; noun) is the web of human relations that surround most humans in most societies.

Kinship studies map out ways in which biology determines socialization, such that economies, political systems, religious groups, and, yes, families (nuclear and otherwise, ex: queer kinship) form. In this way, kinship as about both unity and division.
African Systems of Kinship and Marriage

Edited by A. R. Radcliffe-Brown and Daryll Forde

The scientist is not a person who gives the right answers, he is one who asks the right questions.

(Claude Levi-Strauss)
What has happened? The two bottles are identical in volume, and their contents similar in quality. Each person in this revealing scene has, in the final analysis, received no more than if he had consumed his own wine. From an economic viewpoint, no one has gained and no one has lost. But the point is that there is much more in the exchange itself than in the things exchanged... it is highly revealing, for it offers an example rare in our society (but many instances are found in primitive society), of the formation of a group, for which, doubtless because of its temporary nature, no ready-made formula of integration exists."

Claude Levi-Strauss, The Elementary Structures of Kinship (1949)
"Although we accept that both the definition of and the meaning of kinship are culturally viable ... this does not mean that we cannot compare both how people conceive of relatedness and the meaning they attribute it in different cultures"  -- Janet Carsten
“I wasn’t much of a father. I let them graduate from high school. Then, they wanted to go to college, but I convinced them to help out at my restaurant.”
"Food is everything we are. It's an extension of nationalist feeling, ethnic feeling, your personal history, your province, your region, your tribe, your grandma. It's inseparable from those from the get-go."

Anthony Bourdain
“How, I wonder earnestly, how does the office worker woman who is so accustomed to her forty-hour work week, her daily lunch hour, her in-box, and her out-box, handle all the pain and the physical contortions, and the mayhem of suckling, crying, ear infections, and working if she has never had to skin a live eel, placate the angry patron at Table 7 who finds his rabbit a bit stringy, and carry an epileptic line cook off the mats who has suffered a grand mal seizure during service?”