



O Programa de Pós Graduação em Ciência dos Alimentos
da Faculdade de Ciências Farmacêuticas da USP,
em parceria com o **Food Research Center**,
convida para a palestra:



Ancient foods, fiber, and bugs: microbiomes and functional genetics to discover past human behaviors

Stephanie Schnorr, Ph.D.

University of Nevada, Department of Anthropology (EUA)
Konrad Lorenz Institute (Austria)

Data: 27 de Novembro de 2019 - **Hora:** 10:30
Local: FCF, Bloco 13A, Auditório Verde
Av. Prof Lineu Prestes 580, Cidade Universitária.

Abstract:

Humans have curious dietary proclivities with regard to their evolutionary history. Humans are the only ape to cultivate and process their food post extraction, and it is thought that these activities enable humans to develop and maintain a large metabolically expensive brain. Anthropologists take great interest in the activity of human food production, which is often contrasted to that of modern great apes, in order to reconstruct the intervening millions of years of evolution since the last common ancestor between humans and chimpanzees. Yet, observations of modern human hunter-gatherers demonstrate that extensive food processing is not essential for survival, and that although food processing technologies were developed thousands of years ago, these activities are not always incorporated into the food systems of various human societies. Notably, the Hadza hunter-gatherers of Tanzania subsist on a variety of wild foods including berries, tubers, baobab, honey, and wild game, and yet food processing in preparation for consumption is rare or situational, despite the high fiber- and resistant starch- content of their foods. The human digestive tract is not well suited to digesting refractory foods, and there is an open question as to how much nutrition groups like the Hadza can obtain from their challenging high-fiber diet. Selection for increased copy number of the salivary amylase gene as well as the function of gut microbiota may give insight about the behaviors relating to diet and nutritional acquisition in the course of human evolution. Investigations that model the activity or expression of genetic and microbial traits provide anthropologists with a new framework for thinking about how ancient human societies subsisted in the absence of extensive food processing technology, and to revisit assumptions about what dietary components may be optimal for human health. The talk will cover the role of plant foods in the human diet and their evolutionary legacy, the relation between wild plants and the Hadza microbiome, how the gut microbiome can be interrogated as to its role in nutritional provisioning and its physiological relevance on of the salivary amylase copy number increase, and the reconstruction the microbiome in ancient populations.