This seminar explores the complex interactions between food, state, and society. Topics include the impact of social movements, Capitalism and commodity chains, land grabs, and organic vs. GMO. When do food shortages become famines, and how do famines become traumatic memories in human history? Why did “banana republic” become a pejorative term to represent politically unstable countries? How have global food commodity chains challenged national interests and created new security regimes? How did organic food become a consumer movement responding to environmental concerns, but also emerge from nativist and protectionist economic strategies from conservative farmers? Join us to examine these questions and more!

- ONLINE (synchronous)
- I&S-credit eligible

ABOUT JAMES LIN:

James Lin is an assistant professor in the Jackson School of International Studies and a historian of modern Taiwan and the world. He is currently writing a book on the history of agrarian development that will explore the implications of modern food production, including how societies, states, and economies have been shaped by a changing relationship with food.