

## **Introduction: Operationalizing Food Justice and Sustainability**

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This paper argues that we might take ideas about food justice and sustainability and make them useful by rooting them in a web of ideas stressing opposition to structured inequalities. In addition, we might emphasize the creation of participatory relations of mutual aid and cooperation. Thus, by operationalizing food justice and sustainability as concepts that are intimately tied together, we can find a common ethical core and grow those interconnections outward. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: [journal@transformativestudies.org](mailto:journal@transformativestudies.org) Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2014 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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Social scientists often use the term “operationalize” to mean defining a variable in a precise way so that it can be properly measured. This form of the word means that we take a variable and make it *empirically* useful.

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