

# Food *for* Thought Speaker Series



**Dr. Jeffrey M. Pilcher**  
**Professor of History**  
**University of Toronto**

## ***Planet Taco: A Global History of Mexican Food***

People often ask, "what is authentic Mexican food?" The burritos and taco shells that many people think of as Mexican were actually created in the United States, while Americanized foods have recently been carried around the world in tin cans and tourist restaurants. By telling the stories of the "Chili Queens" of San Antonio and the inventors of the taco shell, this lecture show how Mexican Americans helped to make Mexican food global. It will examine the differing historical perceptions of Mexican food as well as the contemporary struggle between globalization and national sovereignty represented by the clash of fast food and Mexican regional cuisines.

Dr. Pilcher's books include *Que vivan los tamales! Food and the Making of Mexican Identity* (1998), *The Sausage Rebellion: Public Health, Private Enterprise, and Meat in Mexico City* (2006), and *Planet Taco: A Global History of Mexican Food* (2012). He edits the scholarly journal *Global Food History*, and he is currently writing a book on the world history of beer.

**This talk is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the El Paso Corporation Lecture Series, as well as the UH Center for Public History, Center for Mexican American Studies, Latin American Studies, and Honors College. Questions about the event can be directed to Dr. Todd Romero at [tromero2@uh.edu](mailto:tromero2@uh.edu)**

Friday  
September 5, 2014  
Honors College Commons  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
M.D. Anderson Library 5:30-  
7:00

The talk is free and open to  
the public

