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**Eating out and consumer research perspectives**

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Comparing meal habits at an international level show discrepancies in eating out practices. Some cultures almost exclusively consume their food out of home: food courts, street foods while others have their meals mainly at home. However, eating out increases in contemporary lifestyles from a global perspective.

Studies aiming at a better knowledge on consumers in eating out settings provide insight on :

- Individuals: habits, choices, preferences,
- Menus: recipes, pairing, combination in meals and
- Environments: physical, social, temporal.

Within a given cultural area, eating out habits are diverse because of differences between individual but also because of the variety of eating out occasions an individual encounters in her/his lifestyle:

- at work: office, canteen, working lunch, coffee/tea break
- when travelling: train, plane, stations, street
- socializing: morning, day, after work, evening, party
- leisure occasions: sport, cruise, tourism, gastronomy
- health reasons: hospital, nursing homes

Relating this variety of eating out occasions to consumer experience components allows to raise methodological questions and to contribute to current debates on traditional and future approaches:

- at the consumer level: big data and crowd science,
- at the food and beverage level : sensory profiling in foodservice, role of experts (chefs),
- at the context level : use of digital devices and VR.