

# FIELD NOTES

Newsletter of the Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group



## A Message from our Chairs

by Colleen Hammelman, GFASG Chair  
and Kristen Lowitt, GFASG Vice-Chair

Greetings GFASG Members,

We hope this newsletter finds you all as well as possible. It has now been nearly six months since our last newsletter and the AAG Meeting last spring. We think that we, like many others, were hoping by this point that we would be planning for an in-person AAG in New York. However, as the pandemic persists, we are preparing for a hybrid event and committed to making that as inclusive and interactive as possible. During these times, it's especially important we continue to feel supported and connected to our colleagues in food and agriculture geographies. While this newsletter and the upcoming conference are two key activities we are engaged in as a Specialty Group, as always we welcome your ideas and thoughts on how we can best continue to support our members.

This newsletter includes information about member accomplishments and activities since the spring and plans for the upcoming AAG meetings. Despite the continued uncertainties and hardships of the past year, the GFASG membership produced impressive achievements in publications, presentations, and community-engaged events (pg. 3-5). The Food Justice Scholar-Activist/Activist-Scholar community of practice remains active with a growing membership and the establishment of a formal steering committee (pg. #6).

## IN THIS ISSUE

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**A message from our chairs**  
Pages 1-2

---

**Member achievements**  
Pages 3-5

---

**An Introduction to the  
FJSAAS Community of  
Practice**  
Page 6

---

**Meet the FJSAAS-GFASG  
Liaison!**  
Page 6

---

**Calls for Contributions**  
Pages 7-8

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Planning for the 2022 American Association Geographers' Annual Meeting is underway. The conference will be a bit earlier than usual next year, so we look forward to seeing many of you at the virtual and/or in person events during February 25-March 1. The conference will be hosted in a hybrid format that still promises to feature a wide variety of presentations, posters, and workshops. Some key dates to keep an eye out for include:

- October 19, 2021: Paper Abstract Submission Deadline
- November 4, 2021: Paper/Panel Session Organizing Deadline
- January 6, 2022: Poster Abstract Submission Deadline
- January 11, 2022: Poster Session Organizing Deadline
- January 13, 2022: Abstract/Session Editing Deadline

We hope to feature the work of our membership throughout the conference. To have the GFASG sponsor your AAG session, please email your request to Russ Hedberg <russellhedberg@gmail.com> or Megan Baumann <meganbaumann@psu.edu> with the session and title abstract. Once the request is approved, you can indicate GFASG sponsorship by selecting our specialty group from the drop-down menu when you register the session with the AAG. Sponsorship helps other GFASG members find your session through the conference app and allows us to feature it in our list of sponsored sessions.

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey in support of organizing next year's GFASG plenary session. Based on your feedback, we are excited to announce that the plenary will feature Latashia Redhouse, American Indian Foods Director for the Intertribal Agriculture Council in the United States, and Keith Williams, Director of Research and Social Innovation for the First Nations Technical Institute in Ontario, Canada. They will discuss Indigenous food systems and sovereignty and the plenary will be moderated by past-GFASG Chair Charles Levkoe. We are also grateful for the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development's sponsorship of this session. More details will be available soon. If you are interested in organizing field trips, panels, other events, or have suggestions more broadly for the specialty group, please reach out to any member of the board.

The GFASG Board has been hard at work updating plans for the Graduate Research Awards and the Book Awards. Please be on the lookout for more announcements about these opportunities in the coming weeks. The Board has also been updating the website and has a new Twitter handle (@GFASG\_AAG) to be able to more readily share news about the specialty group and our members' achievements.

We hope that you will enjoy hearing about the many member accomplishments throughout this newsletter, as we remain inspired by all of your work. We look forward to continuing to share and hear about the exciting specialty group activities in the coming months.

In health and solidarity,

Colleen Hammelman, GFASG Chair  
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Kristen Lowitt, GFASG Vice-Chair  
kristen.lowitt@queensu.ca



## Member Achievements

### Recent Publications

Bohunicky, M., Levkoe, C.Z., Rose, N. (2021). Working for justice on stolen land? Interrogating Food Movements Confronting Settler Colonialism. *Canadian Food Studies/La Revue canadienne des études sur l'alimentation*, 8(2), 137-165.

Buratti, J. and R. Hagelman III. 2021. A geographic framework for assessing neolocalism: the case of Texas cider production. *Ahead of Print*. 1-35. Permalink: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08873631.2021.1951004>

The purpose of this research is to propose a new conceptual framework intended to offer scholars a tool for assessing the geographic qualities among the myriad expressions of neolocalism reflected by craft food producers. Incorporating geographic, relational, and values of proximity along with identified neolocal traits, we created a visual representation of neolocal engagement, the neolocal product model. The model visually demonstrates how Texas craft cider producers' ability to conscientiously create a locally embedded product imbued with neolocal traits is affected by how the producers situate themselves within a local food network, reflect local resources and values, and present their cidery within a chosen landscape.

DeBruin, J. 2021. Black Food Matters Review. *Society and Space*. <https://www.societyandspace.org/articles/black-food-matters-review>.

Eakin, H., Parajuli, J., Yogya, Y., Hernández, B. & Manheim, M. (2021). Entry points for addressing justice and politics in urban flood adaptation decision making. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*. [doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2021.01.00](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2021.01.00)

Eakin, H., Shelton, R., Baeza, A., Bojórquez-Tapia, L. A., Flores, S., Parajuli, J., Grave, I., Baron, A. E. & Hernández, B. (2020). Expressions of collective grievance as a feedback in multi-actor adaptation to water risks in Mexico City. *Regional Environmental Change*, 20(1), 17. [doi.org/10.1007/s10113-020-01588-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-020-01588-8)

Goldberg, Hanna and Laura-Anne Minkoff-Zern. 2021. "Teaching labor in food studies: challenging consumer-based approaches to social change through student research community partnerships." *Food, Culture, and Society*. Early Online Publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15528014.2021.1961388>

Hammelmann, C., Shoffner, E., Cruzat, M.Y., and Lee, S. (2021) Constructing sustainable environmental, social, and economic landscapes through agroecological practice in Rosario, Argentina. *Agriculture and Human Values*. 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-021-10253->

James, D., Bowness, E., Robin, T., McIntyre, A., Dring, C., Desmarais, A., & Wittman, H. (2021). Dismantling and rebuilding the food system after COVID-19: Ten principles for redistribution and regeneration. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 10(2), 29–51. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2021.102.019>

James, D. & Bowness, E. (2021). *Growing and Eating Sustainably: Agroecology in Action*. Fernwood Publishing. Available at: <https://fernwoodpublishing.ca/book/growing-and-eating-sustainably>

# GFASG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Brittany D. Jones\*  
University of Toledo (Ohio)  
*\*liaison with FJSAAS community of practice*

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Russell C. Hedberg II, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania

### Student Board Members At Large

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Jesse R. Andrews, University of Nebraska – Kearney

Laforge, J., Dale, B., Levkoe, C.Z., Ahmed, F. (2021). The Future of Agroecology in Canada: Embracing the Politics of Food Sovereignty. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 81, 194-202.

LaForge, J., Levkoe C.Z., (2021). The Impacts of Agroecology Training within and beyond Farmer Training. In: H. James (Ed.). *Handbook on the Human Impact of Agriculture*, pp. 275-295. Edward Elgar.

Levkoe, C.Z., Mclaughlin, J., Strutt, C. (2021). Mobilizing Networks and Relationships through Indigenous Food Sovereignty: The Indigenous Food Circle's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Northwestern Ontario. *Frontiers in Communication: Science and Environmental Communication*, 6(672458), 1-8.

Levkoe, C.Z., Schiff, R., Arnold, K., Wilkinson, A., and Kerk, K. (2021). Mapping food policy groups: Understanding cross-sectoral network building through social network analysis. *Canadian Food Studies/La Revue canadienne des études sur l'alimentation*, 8(2), 48-79.

McClintock, Nathan (2021) Nullius in loco? Valorising vacancy through urban agriculture in the settler-colonial 'green city'. In Cian O'Callaghan & Cesare Di Felicianantonio (eds) *The New Urban Ruins: Vacancy, Urban Politics, and International Experiments in the Post-Crisis City*. Bristol: Policy Press, pp. 91-108.

Parajuli, J. & Chhetri, N. (2021). Diagnosing multiple disturbances to small irrigation systems in Nepal. In *Natural Resource Governance in Asia* (pp. 199–217). Elsevier. doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-85729-1.00012-8

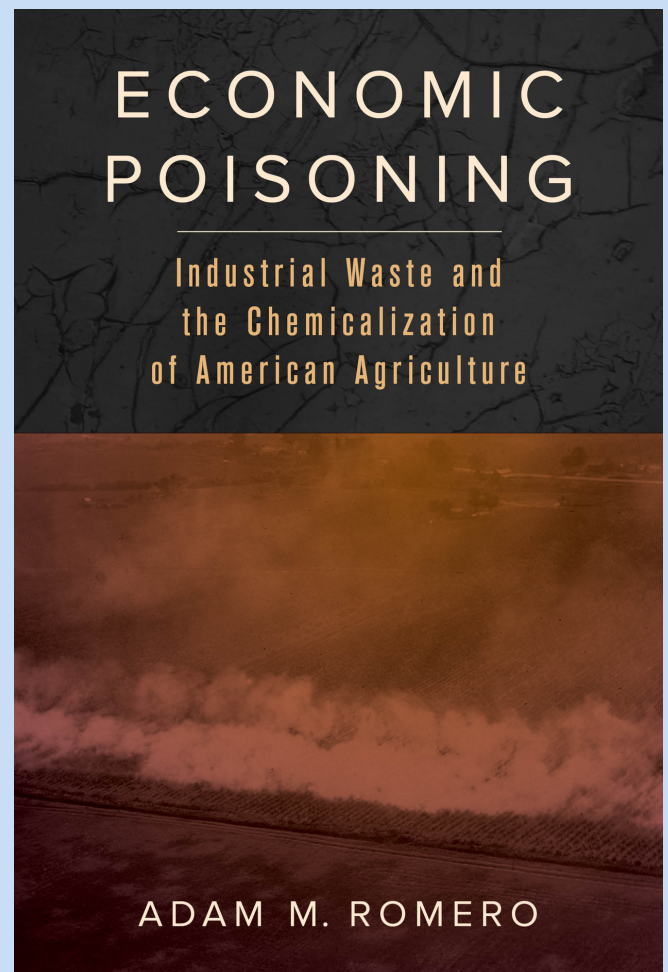
Parajuli, J., Eakin, H. & Chhetri, N. (2020). Small irrigation users' perceptions of environmental change, impacts, and response in Nepal. *Climate and Development*. doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2020.1836468

Pinki Mondal, Ruth DeFries, Jessica Clark, Nicole Flowerhill, Md. Arif, Aurelie Harou, Shauna Downs, Jessica Fanzo (2021) Multiple cropping alone does not improve year-round food security among smallholders in rural India, *Environmental Research Letters* 16: 065017, DOI: 10.1088/1748-9326/ac05ee

Blog posts about this article [can be found here](#) and [here](#).

Romero, A. M. 2021. *Economic Poisoning: Industrial Waste and the Chemicalization of American Agriculture*. Berkeley, CA. University of California Press. 2022.

The toxicity of pesticides to humans and the environment is often framed as an unfortunate effect of their benefits to agricultural production. Upending this narrative in *Economic Poisoning*, Adam M. Romero examines the chemicalization of pesticides in American industrial agriculture prior to World War II. Through impeccable archival research, Romero reveals the ways late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American agriculture, especially in California, functioned less as a market for novel pest-killing chemical products and more as a sink for the accumulating toxic wastes of mining, oil production, and chemical manufacturing. Connecting farming ecosystems to technology and the economy, Romero provides an intriguing reconceptualization of pesticides that forces readers to rethink assumptions about food, industry, and the relationship between human and nonhuman environments.



## Grants

Nathan McClintock (PhD, Professeur-chercheur agrégé, INRS Centre Urbanisation Culture Société) received a SSHRC Insight Development grant for the project "Compost Contested: An Urban Political Ecology of Organic Waste Governance". The 2-year project (2021 - 2023) examines the political contestation over how to manage organic waste, including food waste, in Montreal. Organic waste diversion rates are lagging far behind provincially mandated zero-waste goals, with nearly all of it ending up in landfills off-island. Meanwhile, debates rage between NIMBYs, environmentalist, politicians, and engineers over whether to compost to transform it into biogas, and where these facilities should be sited. Engaging with critical debates in geography on waste, EJ, green development and the circular economy, the project has two broad theoretical goals: 1) to understand the ways in which 'formal' organic waste management policies, plans, and the 'everyday' practices and conceptions of Montrealers shape each other; and 2) to illuminate how conceptions and definitions of 'waste', as well as its physical properties, shape how it is 'governed'.

## Honors and Press

Stefan Norgaard's (PhD Student, Urban Planning, Columbia University) recent publication is currently undergoing copy-editing for the journal *Food Studies*, and is titled: "Trading on Terroir: Fostering Artisanal Cheese and Alcohol Production through Specialized Agrarian Industrial Districts." The paper, co-written with Mariel Collard, builds on a GFASG-sponsored AAG panel and presentation from the AAG 2021 conference. Norgaard has also been awarded an Emerging Scholar Award for the Eleventh International Conference on Food Studies, to be held at Aarhus University in Copenhagen, Denmark October 28-30, 2021. At this conference, Norgaard will present research titled "Planning, Violence, and Crisis in Sociohistorical Perspective," focused on the political ecology of avocado production as it relates to violence in Mexico.

Levi Van Sant (PhD, Assistant Professor School of Integrative Studies, George Mason University) recently spoke about "Land Reform and the Green New Deal" in two episodes of the [Coast Range Radio](#) podcast.

## Special issues

Van Sant, L., Milligan, R., and Mollett, S. (2021) Political Ecologies of Race: Settler Colonialism and Environmental Racism in Canada and the US. *Antipode*.



## An Introduction to the FJSAAS Community of Practice

by *Brittany D. Jones, GFASG Board Member and FJSAAS Liaison*

Since 2014, the Food Justice Scholar-Activist/Activist-Scholar (FJSAAS) specialty group is dedicated to “breaking down dichotomies that we feel reinforce power imbalances with respect to “activist” and ‘expert” within the food justice field (FJSAAS website, 2021).” As a community of practice, its membership represents a mixture of on-the-ground activists and scholar-activists, who meet on a monthly basis to build upon evolving food justice work, and its theoretical contributions. Collaboration with other community-based and AAG specialty groups, specifically the Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group (GFASG) are priority to the purpose of FJSAAS. The group’s activities are evidenced by a track-record of many AAG sessions and other gatherings, such as a virtual panel titled “Exploring Synergies in the Work” as part of AAG’s 2020 conference. The goal is to bring together those seeking to connect via activism and scholarship with the shared goal of strengthening the food system, while centering equity and access. Meetings and events are organized by a six-person steering committee.

To learn more about FJSAAS and stay up to date on its activities, visit GFASG’s Activist Scholarship page and the News page for the latest Blog edition. You will also find recent publications from some of the members as well!

Email [fjscholaractivists@gmail.com](mailto:fjscholaractivists@gmail.com) about how to join the listserv and information on the next meeting!

## Meet the FJSAAS-GFASG Liaison!

Dr. Brittany D. Jones is a recent graduate who attained a degree in Spatially Integrated Social Sciences from the University of Toledo (Ohio). As the FJSAAS-GFASG Liaison, she will be responsible for keeping both groups informed about each other’s activities and events, in addition to serving as the point person for AAG’s 2022 Annual Meeting. Additionally, Dr. Jones is also part of the FJSAAS Steering Committee and the GFASG Board. This position was formerly held by Dr. Kristin Reynolds, another member of the FJSAAS Steering Committee and coordinator of the group.

The intersection of urban planning/geography, spatial analysis, and Black urban agrarianism describes her research interests. Her latest dissertation, *Empowerment through Consumption: Land Banks, Land Ownership, and Black Food Geographies (2021)*, explains this relationship by examining land accessibility via County land banks for urban agriculture activity, specifically land located in majority African-American communities. Brittany’s work reflects “scholactivism,” as she believes that scholarship can inform progressive movements to ensure justice, while offering healing and liberation to those who endure oppression under the present system.

## TWEET, TWEET!!

Did you hear? The Geographies of Food and Agriculture Speciality Group is now on Twitter!  
We invite you to follow along @GSASG\_AAG. We look forward to connecting with you.

Have an accomplishment or AAG session that you would like us to highlight?  
Use #GFASG to let us know.

The GFASG board is looking for help with managing our Twitter presence. If you have a passion for social media, please contact Gwyneth Manser <[gmanser@ucdavis.edu](mailto:gmanser@ucdavis.edu)> about getting involved.

# Call for Contributions and Participation

## Radical Food Geography Book Project

### Editors:

Colleen Hammelman, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Charles. Z. Levkoe, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Food Systems, Department of Health Sciences, Lakehead University

Kristin Reynolds, Independent Scholar, New York, NY; Part-Time Assistant Professor, The New School; and Lecturer, Yale School of the Environment

The multiple, interrelated crises of 2020-21 have laid bare systemic injustices across food systems. Throughout the many facets of food systems, the precarity of human and non-human actors as well as the ways in which they are essential for planetary survival, have become ever more visible. Underlying all of these chronic, yet heightened, injustices are racist, patriarchal and settler colonial structures endemic to capitalism, creating conditions that strip people and communities of their ability to build equitable and sustainable food systems. Social movements fighting against systemic oppression and racist policing further demonstrate this through calling out the ways that food and systems of power intersect to make many Black, Indigenous and People of Color more vulnerable to health inequities and economic crises.

The Radical Food Geographies book project will build on a 2020 special issue on Radical Food Geography Praxis in Human Geography (Issue 13, Volume 3) and a series of conference panels and sessions in 2021, to delve into theoretically grounded and action-oriented approaches to addressing systemic food system challenges from a geographic perspective. We conceptualize radical food geography praxis at the intersection of food systems scholarship and radical geographies, explicitly dealing with questions of space, place, and spatiality, and making theoretical and action-oriented contributions to resisting oppression, while building sustainable and equitable food

systems. These approaches are grounded in a critical analysis of power, oppression, and capitalist exploitation across time and space. But they go beyond those theorizations to use such knowledge for creating change in food systems through scholarship and activism. Importantly, such praxis is rooted in heterogeneous understandings of the systems of history, culture, philosophy, epistemology, and geography that impact how change is pursued and who leads, and is recognized for leading such work. This book project seeks to further engage with radical food geography praxis through a focus on the interconnectivity between places and movements; relationality between land and people; flows of people, environmental resources, ideas, and culture; and diverse approaches to achieving justice-oriented objectives.

We invite contributions from geographers, food studies scholars and others that explore the diverse engagements with radical food geography praxis as described above. These should address but are not limited to the following themes within the conceptualization of radical food geography praxis and geographies more broadly, that is, analyses and conceptualizations of space, place, and spatiality:

- Intersections between space/place and the underlying injustices in food systems (e.g., capitalism, patriarchy, white supremacy, settler colonialism, etc.);
- Connections between co-producing knowledge and practicing activism as scholar-activists and activist-scholars; and,
- The actions of social movements and/or grassroots community groups for creating change and the everyday remaking of power relationships in food systems.

Such intersections between food studies and radical geography can bring to light the role of space, place and time in producing knowledge and practising activism in pursuit of more equitable and sustainable food systems.

We envision author participation in this process as more than just the submission of a chapter, but as a commitment to a collective journey that will involve learning and sharing together. We will aim to host an in-person author workshop as part of the process to discuss individual contributions as well as overarching themes. We are exploring different options for peer review reflective of this collective process.

## Call for Contributions and Participation (continued)

### Radical Food Geography Book Project

Tentative Timeline:

- September 30, 2021 - Deadline for submission of contribution proposals
- Winter/Spring 2022 - Workshop at the American Association for Geographers Annual Meeting (Feb 25 - March 1)
- Fall 2022 - Full contributions due
- Fall 2022 - Winter 2023 - Reviews and revisions
- 2023 - Publication

To indicate your interest in participating in the Radical Food Geography book project, please send us a letter of interest including a proposed title, author(s), institutional affiliation (if any), contact details (including an email address), and a clear description of your contribution and how it relates to concepts of “radical”, “food systems”, and “geography” as described above (approx. 500 words). We welcome scholarly text-based contributions, but also encourage other creative submissions that can be published in book format (e.g., poetry, images).

Please send proposals and/or any questions/inquiries to Charles Levkoe <[clevkoe@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:clevkoe@lakeheadu.ca)>, Colleen Hammelman <[colleen.hammelman@uncc.edu](mailto:colleen.hammelman@uncc.edu)> and/or Kristin Reynolds <[kristin@foodsolarshipjustice.org](mailto:kristin@foodsolarshipjustice.org)> by **September 30, 2021**.

## Call for Newsletter Contributions

### GFASG Winter 2022 Newsletter

Our second newsletter of the year will be published this winter, shortly before AAG 2022. If you are interested in contributing to the newsletter via short articles or written pieces, please contact the newsletter editor, Gwyneth Manser <[gmanser@ucdavis.edu](mailto:gmanser@ucdavis.edu)>.

We especially encourage graduate student contributions, and contributions related to the location of the 2022 conference (the New York metropolitan area)!

In 2022 a call for member accomplishments will be disseminated via the AAG Knowledge Communities.

