

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,

It has now been about four months since our fall newsletter. We hope this finds you as well as possible and settled into the new year. Like many others, we were beginning to look forward to the possibility of an in-person AAG, while planning for virtual options and contingencies. However, as you've likely now heard, the AAG will be fully virtual this year. While it is disappointing to not see each other face-to-face, this allows us to plan now for the best possible virtual event while keeping everyone safe. During these times, it's especially important we continue to feel supported and connected to our colleagues in food and agriculture geographies. As such, we are very excited for the upcoming conference and pleased to share with you a few updates at this time.

First, the work of our membership will be featured throughout the conference. To date, we have agreed to sponsor 28 sessions. You will be able to find GFASG sponsored sessions in the conference app.

We are also excited to announce that the GFASG plenary will feature a discussion about Indigenous food systems and sovereignty. Speakers include Latashia Redhouse from the Intertribal Agriculture Council and Suzanne Katsi'tsiarishshion Brant and Keith Williams from the First Nations Technical Institute. It will be moderated by (continued on next page)

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the GFASG past chair Charles Levkoe, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Food Systems at Lakehead University. Please see pg 3 of this newsletter for full details of this event scheduled for Saturday, February 26, 11:20am (local conference time).

We are also actively planning our Business Meeting. This is scheduled for Saturday, February 26, at 7pm and we are hoping to organize a virtual mixer in advance (stay tuned for more details!). We hope you will be able to join us to meet other specialty group members and discuss our plans for the upcoming year. We will also be announcing the recipient of our biennial book award at this meeting.

Lastly, we have some open seats upcoming on the GFASG Executive. If you wish to serve on the Executive, we will be seeking nominations within the coming weeks and voting will take place in March after the AAG meeting.

There are many ways to keep connected with us as we look forward to the conference. Please watch for updates from the knowledge communities, and follow us on Twitter [@gfasg_aag](#), [Facebook](#), and our [website](#).

The remainder of this newsletter includes more details on upcoming conference events and updates from the JEDI Committee and FJSAAS.

We look forward to seeing many of you virtually soon and wish you a successful and enjoyable AAG!

In health and solidarity,

Colleen Hammelman, GFASG Chair
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Save the date for the 2022 GFASG Business Meeting!

The business meeting, scheduled for Saturday, February 26, at 7pm EST, will include a virtual mixer. The event will be held prior to the business meeting (exact timing and Zoom details forthcoming). Please feel free to bring your beverage of choice. We look forward to seeing you there!

GFASG Plenary on Indigenous Food Systems and Sovereignty

Saturday, February 26th
Begins at 11:20 AM EST
AAG Virtual Room 39

This panel discussion, the plenary event for the Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group (GFASG), will address Indigenous food systems and sovereignty on Turtle Island. In particular, speakers will share their work and discuss how it intersects with multiple systems of power, place-based relationships, scholar-activist/activist-scholarship, and political economy.

Panel speakers include Latashia Redhouse from the Intertribal Agriculture Council and Suzanne Katsi'tsiarihshion Brant and Keith Williams from the First Nations Technical Institute. It will be moderated by the GFASG past chair Charles Levkoe, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Food Systems at Lakehead University. This session will take a more informal conversational format with ample opportunity for attendee engagement. It is sponsored by the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development.

Plenary speaker spotlight:

Latashia Redhouse is an enrolled member of the Diné Nation and the Intertribal Agriculture Council's American Indian Foods Program Director. Her passion is to inspire Indigenous professionals with marketing strategies and solutions to help grow their businesses.

Suzanne Katsi'tsiarihshion Brant is President & CEO of First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI). She provides leadership and innovation in Indigenous post-secondary education at FNTI. Suzanne holds a Master's degree from York University in Environmental Studies focusing on Indigenous post-secondary programming. She is an accomplished visual artist and photographer who has exhibited her work at the Woodland Cultural Centre, Brantford and Gallery 121, Belleville. She is a seasoned gardener and grower, specializing in Haudenosaunee traditional food systems and medicine plants. Suzanne has four incredible children and three beautiful granddaughters.

Keith Williams is the Director of Research and Social Innovation at FNTI. Keith is Mohawk and Dutch on his father's side. He is interested in better understanding how Indigenous ways of being and ways of knowing can help create a more equitable future for humanity and all our relations.

Charles Z. Levkoe is the Canada Research Chair in Equitable and Sustainable Food Systems, the Director of the Sustainable Food Systems Lab, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Lakehead University. His community-engaged research uses a food systems lens to better understand the importance of and connections between social justice, ecological regeneration, regional economies, and active democratic engagement. More information about his work can be found at: <https://foodsystems.lakeheadu.ca/>.

The GFASG is grateful to have received a Keynote Fund award from the AAG to support speaker participation in this session.

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Sessions Sponsored by GFASG for AAG 2022

The GFASG is sponsoring a wide range of food- and agriculture-relation sessions for the 2022 AAG conference. Please see below for the name of the sponsored sessions, as well as the session organizers. Additional information (including the session description, date, time, and Zoom links) can be accessed via the 2022 AAG conference platform and app.

Sponsored Sessions:

- Agri-food futures and the re-ordering of space
 - Organized by Julie Guthman
- Cultivating Food Justice 1: Production and labor
 - Organized by Alison Alkon
- Cultivating Food Justice 5: Virtual Session
 - Organized by Julian Agyeman
- Epistemic Challenges of Chemical Geographies: Navigating toxic uncertainties, partial data and imperfect evidence 1
 - Organized by Caitlyn Sears
- Food and migration
 - Organized by Sara Tornabene
- Food and the City I
 - Organized by Michael Minn
- Food and the City II
 - Organized by Michael Minn
- Food, Environment, and Health
 - Organized by Hao Huang
- From Food to Diet and Nutrition in Geographies of Food and Agriculture
 - Organized by Bronwen Powell
- Geographies of Food and Agriculture I
 - Organized by Russell Hedberg
- Geographies of Food and Agriculture II
 - Organized by Russell Hedberg
- GFASG Plenary: Indigenous food systems and sovereignty
 - Organized by Colleen Hammelman and Jesse Andrews
- Interdisciplinary Engagements Beyond the “Food Desert” 1
 - Organized by Erica Zurawski
- Interdisciplinary Engagements Beyond the “Food Desert” 2
 - Organized by Alanna K. Higgins
- Living Labs at the Forefront of Social and Environmental Change - Part 1. Concepts and Perspectives
 - Organized by Charles Levkoe
- Living Labs at the Forefront of Social and Environmental Change - Part 2
 - Organized by Charles Levkoe
- Scholar-Activism/Activist-Scholarship: Methodologies of Care and Accountability in Just Food Research
 - Organized by Brittany Jones
- The Social Implications of Cellular Agriculture
 - Organized by Sarah-Louise Ruder



2022 Geographies of Food and Agriculture Book Award

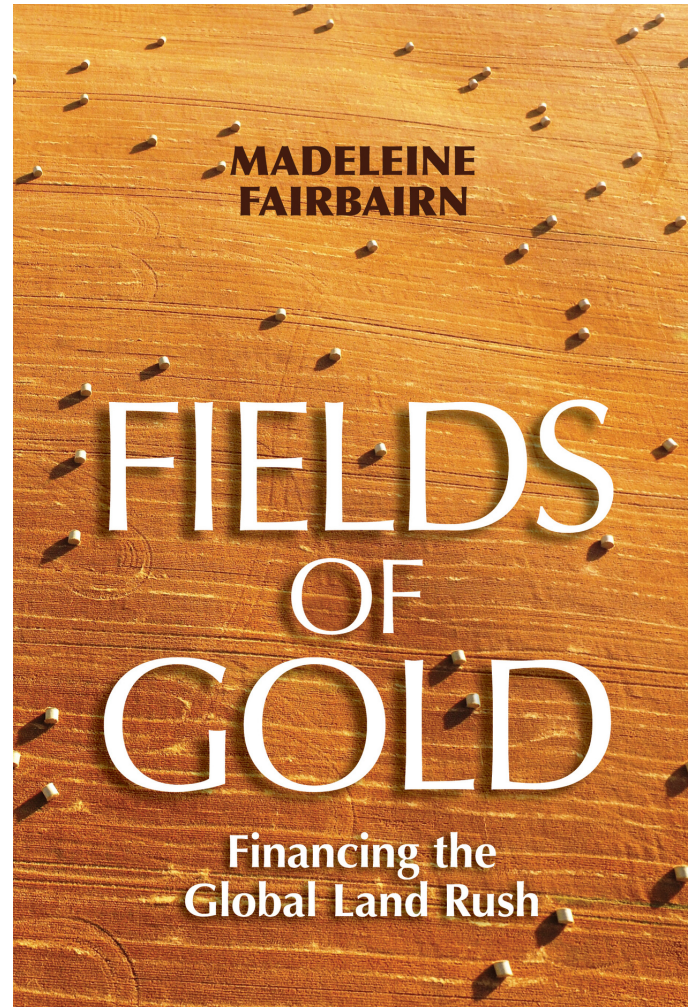
The GFASG's awards committee, consisting of Kristen Lowitt, Gwyneth Manser, Megan Dwyer Baumann, and Dana James, is thrilled to announce the winner and runner up for the 2022 Geographies of Food and Agriculture Book Award.

2022 GFASG Book Award Winner

The winner of this year's award is Dr. Madeleine Fairbairn's *Fields of Gold*. Dr. Fairbairn is an Associate Professor in the Environmental Studies Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She studies the political economy of agriculture, including the financial sector's growing interest in buying farmland and, more recently, the Silicon Valley agri-food tech sector.

The awards committee shared the following reflection on Madeleine's work:

"Madeleine's book *Fields of Gold* makes a novel contribution to geographic studies of agricultural land. Additionally, Fairbairn speaks to a broad audience beyond agri-food geographies including finance and economics, critical political economy and other groups. Her clear writing makes accessible for readers a complex financing world around land and will not only reach academic audiences but those in policy, farming, and international governance more generally. We received two strong nomination letters for *Fields of Gold*, from Julie Guthman and David Mitchell, emphasizing the importance of Madeleine's methodology in studying not only the U.S. and Brazil, locations central to financing for land, but also the book's emphasis on 'studying up' by investigating elite investors and financing powers provides a view of land dynamics provided by few other scholars."



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, and to engage with us during the conference.

We look forward to connecting with you.

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> about getting involved.

2022 Geographies of Food and Agriculture Book Award (continued)

2022 GFASG Book Award Runner Up

The awards committee is excited to acknowledge *The \$16 Taco*, by Dr. Pascale Joassart-Marcelli, as the runner up for this year's book award. Pascale Joassart-Marcelli is Professor of Geography and Director of the interdisciplinary Food Studies and Urban Studies programs at San Diego State University where she has been teaching courses such as Geography of Cities, Geography of Food, Food Justice, Feeding the World, and Food, Place, and Culture. Pascale's research focuses on the relationship between place, ethnicity, and food, including the role of food in creating just and sustainable cities for all with an emphasis on immigrant communities.

The awards committee shared the following reflection on Pascale's work:

"*The \$16 Taco*, by Pascale Joassart-Marcelli, is an engaging, strongly interdisciplinary contribution to debates of food studies, gentrification, cosmopolitanism and the linkages between race, ethnicity and place with food. Well-written and drawing from creative, mixed methods research conducted over six years in San Diego, the author's city of residence, the book would easily enter conversations at all levels of undergraduate and graduate studies around the cultural, social and racial aspects of food's role in urban change. Inventively, Joassart-Marcelli's deeply place-based contribution brings into conversation concepts of landscape, foodscape, food sovereignty, and displacement among others. The author's vibrant writing style helps to highlight the tensions inherent in urban gentrification in ways that are engaging and accessible to the reader."

