

FIELD NOTES

Newsletter of the Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group



A Message from our Chairs

by Kristen Lowitt, GFASG Chair kristen.lowitt@queensu.ca
and Russell Hedberg, GFASG Vice-Chair rchedberg@ship.edu

Greetings GFASG Members,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and settling into the fall season.

It has now been six months since our last newsletter and the AAG Meeting this past February. It is exciting at this time to be looking forward to the upcoming AAG meeting with more in-person opportunities! Planning for the 2023 American Association Geographers' Annual Meeting is well underway. It will take place from March 23-27 in Denver, Colorado with a combination of "hybrid" in-person and virtual options.

Some key dates to keep an eye out for include:

- November 10, 2022: Paper abstract submission deadline
- December 1, 2022: Session Organizing Deadline
- January 5, 2023: Program released
- February 9, 2023: 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 <rchedberg@ship.edu> or Stefan Norgaard <stefan.norgaard@gmail.com> with the session and title abstract. [continued on next page]

IN THIS ISSUE

A message From Our Chairs
Pages 1 - 2

**2022 GFASG Graduate
Student Award Winners**
Page 3

**Member
Accomplishments**
Pages 4-7

**2023 Awards: Scholar-
Activist Award and Graduate
Research Grant Competition**
Pages 7-11

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.

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. We have begun planning our plenary panel and will be hosting field trips to community food sites around Denver. Stay tuned for details in the knowledge communities and social media! A reminder that you can follow us on our Facebook page and Twitter (@GFASG_AAG). Please tweet at us with your updates, news, and events so we can share with our membership. You will also find in this newsletter (on pages 8-12) announcements for our upcoming awards, including our Graduate Research Awards and new Scholar-Activist Award.

Last, but certainly not least, we are pleased to welcome Russell Hedberg as Vice-Chair of our Specialty Group. Russ is Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography & Earth Science at Shippensburg University in South-Central Pennsylvania where his current research focuses on the intersection of technology and food systems, with interdisciplinary projects exploring the environmental narratives used by alternative protein technologies and the ecological impacts of converting agricultural land to utility-scale solar photovoltaic facilities. Russ has served the board of GFASG in the past as a faculty member and web coordinator and looks forward to this next step.

In solidarity,

Kristen Lowitt, GFASG Chair kristen.lowitt@queensu.ca
Russell Hedberg, GFASG Vice-Chair rchedberg@ship.edu



Save the date for the 2023 AAG meeting in Denver, Colorado!

The annual AAG conference will run from March 23, 2023 to March 27, 2023 in the 'Mile High City.' The conference will feature both virtual and in-person components. We look forward to gathering together and learning from each other during the 2023 conference, and hope to see you there!

2022 GFASG Graduate Student Award Winners

PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING OUR 2022 AWARD WINNERS OF THE GFASG GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS!

Master's Award: Madison Barbour

I am a second-year graduate student at UCLA, where I am working towards my Masters in the MA/PhD program in Geography. Broadly, my research interests are in the political economy of U.S agriculture and political ecology. During my undergraduate work at UCSC, I conducted research with Dr. Julie Guthman concerning the ways in which structural racism in the U.S food system is reproduced by neoliberal policy approaches to worker protection. My Masters thesis project, which will use funds from the GFASG award, examines emergent geographies of recreational cannabis cultivation in California, and how cannabis growers are navigating an increasingly competitive post-prohibition market. Outside of graduate school, I spend my free time hiking and exploring Los Angeles with my partner.



Madison Barbour



Lily Zeitler

Doctoral Award: Lily Zeitler

In the third year of her PhD at Penn State's Geography department, Lilly's research will delve into the political ecology of Indigenous rotational farming systems and the dietary impacts of agricultural transitions in Thailand. Pre-academic experiences of living with ethnic Shan communities in Northern Thailand have guided her research interests and academic trajectory with a B.Sc. in Earth, Energy & Sustainability (Leiden University College, The Netherlands) and master's degrees in ethnobotany (University of Kent, England) and Sustainable International Agriculture, specializing in Tropical Agriculture and Agroecosystems Science (Georg-August University of Göttingen & University of Kassel, Germany). Working for the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome and the World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi have further cemented and expanded Lilly's interests in sustainable agriculture and livelihoods. The well-being of farming communities continues to drive Lilly's research, which spans farmer and Indigenous rights, biocultural diversity conservation, sustainable food systems and diets, climate change adaptation and traditional ecological knowledge.

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Member Accomplishments

Sharing GFASG membership accomplishments-- be they personal or professional-- is always a joy. Please join us in congratulating our colleagues on their many accomplishments and publications over the past year!

Colleen Hammelman, Associate Professor, UNC Charlotte

Hammelman, C. (2022) Greening Cities by Growing Food: A Political Ecology Analysis of Urban Agriculture in the Americas. Springer Nature.

Salas, C., Hammelman, C., and Tornabene, S.(2022) "Looking for true Mexican food in Charlotte": Relying on Habitus to Invoke Authenticity. *Gastronomica* 22(2), 29-42.

Esteve Giraud, PhD, Assistant Research Professor at ASU Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems

Merrigan, K.A, Giraud, E.G., El-Hage, N., Brook, L., Johnson, A., Aird, S. (2022). Grow Organic: The Climate, Health, & Economic Case for Expanding Organic Agriculture. Natural Resources Defense Council, ASU Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems & Californians for Pesticide Reform.

The week of October 20, a joint report between the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems at Arizona State University, and Californians for Pesticide Reform will come out after 3 years of collaboration. The report discusses the benefits of organic agriculture for human health, the environment and the economy, and provides a list of recommendations to strengthen organic agriculture in the United States.

Kerstin Schreiber, PhD Candidate Geography, McGill University

Schreiber, K., Soubry, B., Dove-McFalls*, C., MacDonald, G.K. (2022). Untangling the role of social relationships and challenges for local food systems: A case study of local farmers in Québec, Canada. *Agriculture & Human Values*.

In our latest publication, we analyse the multi-dimensional challenges farmers selling to local markets in Québec have and which role different support actor groups have in helping to address their challenges.

Stefan Norgaard, PhD Candidate in Urban Planning, Columbia University

Stefan Norgaard is honored to be serving as the GFASG Secretary / Treasurer for the 2022-2023 year. He also defended his Columbia Urban Planning dissertation proposal and has successfully advanced to Candidacy. Stefan's dissertation will examine how South African residents are re-purposing apartheid-era planning schemes at a territorial/regional scale.

Alanna K. Higgins, West Virginia University

Alanna K. Higgins (pictured below) successfully defended her dissertation and graduated from her PhD program at West Virginia University in Spring 2022. Her dissertation is titled "Critical Perspectives on Produce Prescription Programs and US Federal Nutrition Policy". Congratulations, Dr. Higgins!



Member Accomplishments

Alana Haynes Stein, PhD Candidate, UC Davis

Haynes Stein, A. (2022). Barriers to Access: The Unencumbered Client in Private Food Assistance. *Social Currents*, 0(0).

Nonprofit program structures are designed to serve an unencumbered client, yet even populations characterized as “deserving” do not meet the characteristics of the unencumbered client. This nearly unattainable status of unencumbered client contributes to inequity emerging from the structural level that manifests as individuals try to access and use private food assistance.

Tracy Perkins, Assistant Professor, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

Perkins, Tracy. 2022. “Roadside Art in the “Salad Bowl of the World”: How Agricultural Ideology Obscures Racial Capitalism and Inhibits Labor Reform.” *Boom California*, June 28. Retrieved Sept. 21, 2022.

Image from publication is below.



Andrew Zimmer, PhD Candidate, University of Arizona

Zimmer, A., Guido, Z., Davies, J., Joshi, N., Chilenga, A. and Evans, T., 2022. Food systems and rural-urban linkages in African secondary cities. *Urban Transformations*, 4(1), pp.1-23.

We investigate household food linkages in 14 secondary cities in Zambia, finding that 40% of households source some food from other rural/urban areas to satisfy their food budget. Rural linkages are dominated by grains, urban linkages are higher value foods. We show how food linkages change across the urban landscape with remote secondary cities most vulnerable to food system shocks - important for urban sustainable development.

Xiang Chen, University of Connecticut

Chen, X., Johnson, E., Kulkarni, A., Ding, C., Ranelli, N., Chen, Y., & Xu, R. (2021). An Exploratory Approach to Deriving Nutrition Information of Restaurant Food from Crowdsourced Food Images: Case of Hartford. *Nutrients*, 13(11), 4132.

Chen, X., Zhao, B., & Yang, X. (2022). The obesogenicity of restaurant food: Mapping the nutritional foodscape of Franklin County, Ohio using food review images. *Applied Geography*, 144, 102717.

Susanne Freidberg, Geography Department, Dartmouth College

Freidberg, S. (2022). Metrics and Mētis: work and practical knowledge in Agri-food sustainability governance. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-022-10351-0>.

This article draws on several years of research on the efforts of “Big Food” companies to assess and improve the sustainability of the farms supplying their commodity raw materials. Of all the articles I’ve published on this research, this one focuses most on the work of sustainability managers.

TWEET, TWEET!!

The Geographies of Food and Agriculture Speciality Group is 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 managing our Twitter presence. If you have a passion for social media, please contact Gwyneth Manser <gmanser@ucdavis.edu> about getting involved.

Member Accomplishments

Julie Guthman, University of California, Santa Cruz

Guthman, J. and C Biltekoff. in press. Agri-Food Tech's Building Block: Narrating Protein, Agnostic of Source, in the Face of Crisis. Biosocieties.

Biltekoff, C. and J. Guthman. 2022. Conscious, complacent, fearful: Agri-food tech's market-making public imaginaries. *Science as Culture*.

Fairbairn, M., Z. Kish, and J. Guthman. 2022. Pitching agri-food tech: Performativity and non-disruptive disruption in Silicon Valley. *Journal of Cultural Economy*.

Guthman, J., M. Butler, S. Martin, C. Mather and C. Biltekoff. 2022. In the name of protein. *Nature Food*.

Guthman, J. 2022. The CAFO in the bioreactor: Reflections on efficiency logics in bio-industrialization present and future. *Environmental Humanities* 14 (1).

I've published or co-published a series of articles stemming from a collaborative research project on the tech sector's forays into food and agriculture.

Pascale Joassart-Marcelli, Professor of Geography, Director Food Studies Program, San Diego State University

Pascale Joassart-Marcelli. 2022. *Food Geographies: Social, Political, and Ecological Connections*. Rowman and Littlefield.

My colleagues and I were awarded a USDA Hispanic Serving Institution Collaborative Educational Grant to create high-impact learning experiences to recruit and support underrepresented students in food and agricultural studies. Our project centers on indigenous and immigrant farming and food practices along the Mexico-US border and examine their capacity to promote food security, sustainability, and sovereignty in the face of mounting social and environmental threats. It is part of the new center for Better Food Futures that I co-direct at San Diego State University.

I worked with the San Diego Food System Alliance on a story map [documenting visually how to uproot segregation in San Diego's food system](#).

Garrett Graddy-Lovelace, Provost Associate Professor at American University School of International Service

2022 Auerbach, J., S. Muñoz, G. Graddy-Lovelace, V. Limeberry et al. "Displacement of the Scholar?"

Participatory Action Research under COVID-19 and a Re-imagining of University Support" *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* {OA}

2022 Graddy-Lovelace, G. "From Obstruction to Decolonization? Contested Sovereignty, the Seed Treaty & Biocultural Rights in the United States/Turtle Island & Beyond" For *Biocultural Rights and Community Protocols: Protecting and Promoting Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Ways of Life*. Eds. F. Girard, I. Hall, G. Filoche, C. Frisson. ISBN 9781032000817

2021 Graddy-Lovelace, G. and Patti Naylor. "Disparity to Parity to Solidarity: Balancing the Scales of Agricultural Policy for Justice & Viability" for *Development*. Special Issue "Resetting Power in Global Food Governance: The United Nations Food Systems Summit" (Invited)

2021 Graddy-Lovelace, G. "Seeking (Food) Sovereignty Beyond the State? Limits of Liberalism & Neoliberalism in International Anti-Hunger Advocacy" A Review of M. Jurkovich's *Feeding the Hungry: Advocacy and Blame in the Global Fight Against Hunger*. In *H-Diplo (H-Net network for Diplomatic History, International Affairs, Foreign Policy)* (Invited)

2021 Graddy-Lovelace, G. "Leveraging Law & Life: Criminalization of Agrarian Movements & the Escazú Agreement" For *Our Hyper-Extractive Age: Expressions of Violence and Resistance*. Routledge Press. Eds. J. Shapiro and J.A. McNeish {OA}

2021 Montenegro, M., A. Iles, A. Shattuck, G. Graddy-Lovelace, J. Chappell, A. Roman-Alcalá. "Some Operating Principles for Collective Scholar Activism: Early Insights from the Agroecology Research-Action Collective" *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems & Community Development* 10(2): 319-337 {OA}

Member Accomplishments

Garrett Graddy-Lovelace, Provost Associate Professor at American University School of International Service

2021 Graddy-Lovelace, G. "Farmer & Non-Farmer Responsibility to Each Other: Negotiating the Social Contracts & Public Good of Agriculture" *Journal of Rural Studies* 82: 531-541.

2021-2026 Senior Personnel & AgriFood Policy Cluster Co-Chair, "SRS RN: Multiscale RECIPES (Resilient, Equitable, and Circular Innovations with Partnership and Education Synergies) for Sustainable Food Systems" National Science Foundation (\$15,000,000)

Hannah Kass, joint Ph.D student in the Department of Geography and The Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

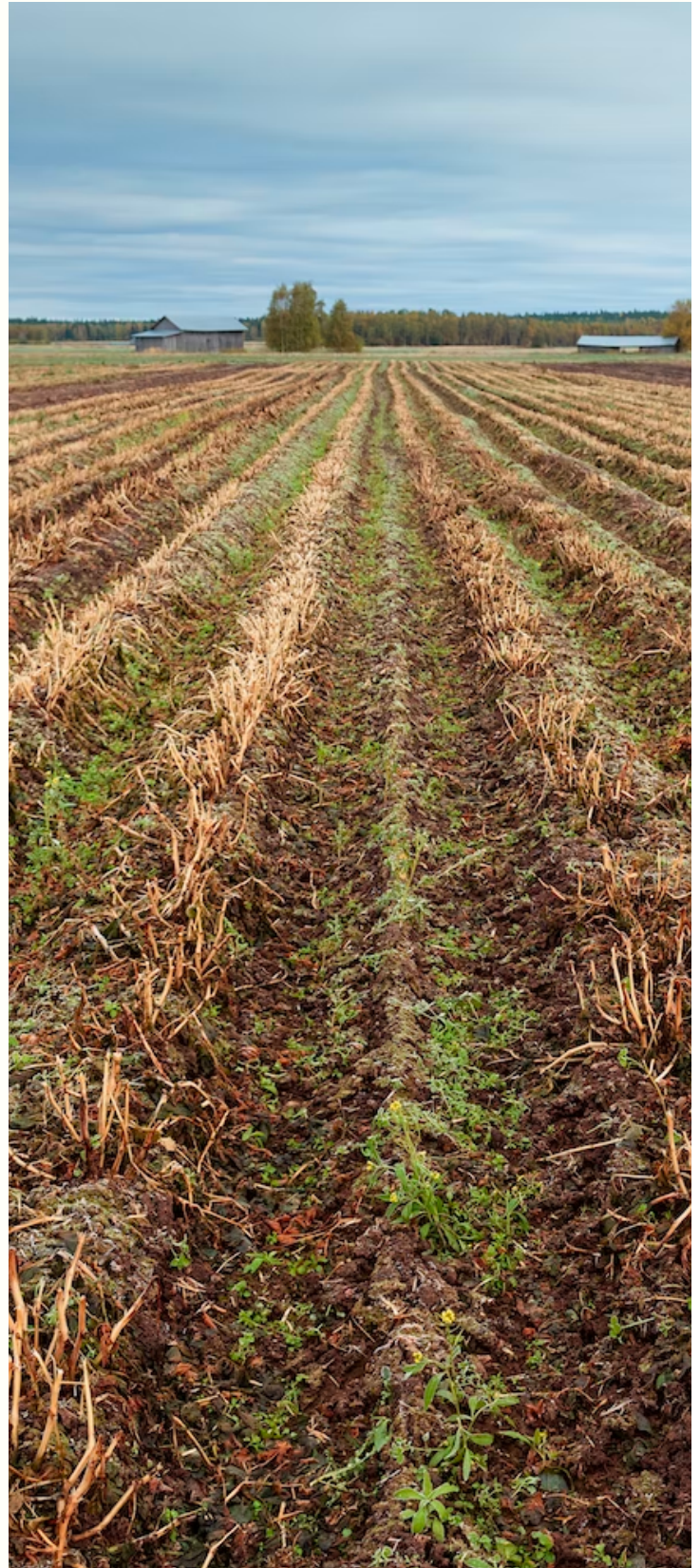
Kass, H. 2022. Food anarchy and the State monopoly on hunger. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*.

I recently published an article in The Journal of Peasant Studies called "Food anarchy and the State monopoly on hunger." The article demonstrates the interdependency between the State, capitalism, and property, which works to produce peasant dispossession and hunger. To challenge these systems and their social relationships, the article proposes food anarchy: a new pathway for the food sovereignty movement to wield in their struggle to challenge the current food regime.

2023 call for award nominations & applications

The GFASG is excited to announce a call for nominations for the first biannual GFASG Scholar-Activist Award and the annual Graduate Research Grant Competition, both due February 1, 2023.

Please see the proceeding pages of this newsletter for application and nomination instructions for both awards.



AAG Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group

Call for Nominations: GFASG Scholar-Activist Award

The Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group (GFASG) is pleased to announce the launch of a new award for outstanding scholar-activist/activist-scholar work related to geographies of food and agriculture, including work that advances social, economic, and/or environmental justice through food and agriculture. This award will be given out biennially to a person, group, project, or organization that utilizes a scholar-activist/activist-scholar approach in their work to advance equity, justice, diversity, and inclusion in food and agricultural systems. The nominees must demonstrate social or environmental justice commitments in food and agriculture systems and evidence of positive change (which can include impact through a continued and committed partnership). Priority will be given to scholars from [underrepresented groups](#) in geography, as well as graduate students.

This award will be recognized at the GFASG business meeting at the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers and through the GFASG newsletter, listserv, website, and social media. The recipient will receive a \$250 monetary prize.

People, groups, or projects can self-nominate or be nominated by others. The current call for nominations is for projects ongoing or closed in 2021 or 2022. Nominations undergo review by the Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group's Executive Committee. Questions should be directed to Kristen Lowitt (kristen.lowitt@queenusu.ca).

The application consists of the Google application form, [available here](#), and on the Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group's website: gfasg.wordpress.com.

Application Deadline: **February 1, 2023.**

AAG Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group

2023 Graduate Research Grant Competition

The AAG Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group (GFASG) invites proposals for the 2023 Graduate Research Grant Competition. The Master's and Doctoral competitions are designed to support graduate students in the early stages of their research and graduate student experience (whether field, university, or home-based). Submission of a budget is not required.

The **master's level competition** is intended to support their research-related expenses and funding in support of thesis research during the 2023 academic year. Proposals should clearly demonstrate scholarly merit and the ability to be successfully completed during the time-frame of the master's research.

The **doctoral competition** is intended to support pilot research, or provide startup funds to help launch dissertation research. This award is not intended to supplement dissertation research that is already underway or near completion. Proposals should clearly demonstrate a scholarly contribution to geographic research on food and agriculture, an ability to successfully complete the proposed work, and a readiness to begin research in 2023.

The awards are competitive; applications are judged on the basis of scholarly merit of the project, organization and clarity of the proposal, qualifications of the student to conduct the proposed work, and their experiences and engagement with diversity. The Awards Committee is committed to equity in this process and especially encourages submissions from students of underrepresented groups including women, people of color, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ2S+ persons. As part of the application process, we therefore ask students to submit a diversity statement reflecting on their personal experiences with diversity and/or how their proposed research may engage with broader questions of diversity and equity as they pertain to food systems.

Each applicant must be a student member of the GFASG at the time of application, and the proposed project should be part of their thesis or dissertation research. *Again, please note that applicants should not yet have completed research, as this is a seed grant.* The amount of the research grant prize will be determined by membership and funds available to the GFASG at time of award. Past awards have been in the range of \$400 - \$600. Awards may not be given if no proposals are deemed suitable. Entries undergo review by the Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group's Executive Committee.

A complete application must be sent by email attachment (as a single PDF file with applicant's name and graduate level [master's or Ph.D.] in the title of the document). The submission and questions should be directed to **Jesse Andrews** <jesse.andrews@okstate.edu> . Application Deadline: **Feb 1, 2023**. Decisions will be made by March 15th.

The application form is attached here, and available on the Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group's website: gfasg.wordpress.com. The application consists of the application form and a one-page synopsis of the curriculum vitae. Submissions should be original,

interdisciplinary, well-written and well-researched, and it should be obvious that the applicant is prepared to begin research AND has not already received full funding for the work.

Jesse Andrews (University of Nebraska Kearney)

Dylan Turner (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)

Kristen Lowitt (Queen's University)

Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group
2023 Research Grant Competitions – Application Instructions

Eligibility: Applicant must be enrolled in a Master's or PhD program in Geography or related fields at an institution of higher education. The proposed research must be an integral part of ongoing research toward the Master's or PhD degree. The applicant must be a member of the AAG Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group at the time of application.

Application Deadline: **Feb 1, 2023**

Application Directions:

1. Complete the Research Grant Application Form (see below). This form includes
 - Application information
 - 250-word description of research activities
 - 250-word diversity statement
 - 500-word research proposal
2. Provide a 1-page synopsis of your curriculum vitae.
3. Email all materials as one file (.pdf only) to **Jesse Andrews** <jesse.andrews@okstate.edu>

AAG Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group
2023 Research Grant Competition
Application Form

Name:

Email Address:

Mailing Address (through July 2023):

Phone:

Institution/Affiliation:

Department:

Degree Sought:

Year in Program:

Title of Proposal:

Advisor's Name:

Advisor's Email:

- In approximately 250 words, please list the work you have completed towards your Master's or Ph.D. degree with corresponding dates where applicable. Include courses taken that relate to your thesis/dissertation topic, background research completed, contacts you have made in regard to your thesis/dissertation, and conferences you have attended that relate to your research topic.
- In approximately 250 words, please provide a diversity statement reflecting on your personal, lived experiences with diversity and/or how your proposed research may engage with broader questions of diversity and equity as they pertain to food systems. Contributions to diversity and equity in food systems scholarship will be substantive criteria for the evaluation of proposals.
- In approximately 500 words, please provide a concise proposal including research context, question(s)/goal(s), data, methods, and significance. You may include a reference section that is not included in the word count. This proposal will be evaluated based on the originality and importance of the work's contribution to the geographies of food and agriculture, strong theoretical framework(s) and clear presentation/framing of the problem, and evidence of strong and appropriate methods.