

MEGAN DWYER BAUMANN

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Geography, 2017-2021

Pennsylvania State University (Penn State)

Successfully defended dissertation on February 1, 2021. Graduation: August 14, 2021.

Dissertation title: Irrigation Megaprojects and Human-Environmental Geography: Remaking land-water connections in Tolima, Colombia.

Advisor: Karl S. Zimmerer.

Master of Science in Geography, 2015-2017

Pennsylvania State University

Thesis title: Environmental Landscape Knowledge Among Smallholder Farmers in Nicaragua.

Bachelor of Arts in History and Sociology, 2008

Loyola University of Chicago

Minor in Spanish Language and Literature

Magna Cum Laude.

Universidad Nacional de Colombia, sede Bogotá, August 2018 - July 2019

Visiting researcher. College of Agricultural Sciences.

Westside Technical Institute of City Colleges of Chicago, IL, February - October 2012

Certificate of Sustainable Urban Horticulture

Certificate of Environmental Literacy, in partnership with UC Berkeley.

Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Argentina, July 2007

Non-degree seeking student. Completed courses on post-conflict contemporary Argentine history.

GRANTS

- 2019 **National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award (DDR)**. Co-PI with K.S. Zimmerer. “*Doctoral Dissertation Research: Remaking soil in dryland irrigation megaprojects: Contested governance of water and soil in Colombia’s Tolima Valley.*” \$17,998.
- 2018 **Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award (DDRA)**. “*Remaking the internal frontier through irrigation megaprojects: Water and soil governance in Colombia’s Tolima Valley.*” \$32,457.
- 2017 **National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)**. “*The Role of Farmer Landscape Cognition in Seed Management of Subsistence Crops.*” \$102,000.
- 2016 **Studentship with Bioversity International & Zimmerer GeoSyntheSES Lab.** \$3,667.
- 2015 **Center for Landscape Dynamics Graduate Research Grant, Penn State.** \$2,500.

2004-08 **Loyola Merit Scholarship, Loyola University Chicago.** \$60,000.

2004-08 **Gannon Scholar, Mundelein College Women's Leadership Scholarship, Loyola University Chicago.** \$14,000.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications in Refereed Journals

2021 Baumann, M.D. Agrobiodiversity's caring material practices as a symbolic frame for environmental governance in Colombia's southern Tolima. *Geoforum*.
doi: 10.1016/j.geoforum.2021.01.002

2020 **Baumann, M.D.**, Zimmerer, K.S., & Van Etten, J. Participatory seed projects and environmental landscape knowledge in Central America. *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*.
doi: 10.1080/14735903.2020.1775930

Articles Under Peer Review

Baumann, M.D. Invited contribution to Interventions: Relationality and anti-oppressive geographic praxis. *Gender, Place & Culture*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Baumann, M.D., Zimmerer, K.S. The Tolima Triangle rice boom: Rethinking spatial and relational concepts of irrigation water use and access. To be submitted to *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.

Baumann, M.D. "No es rentable": Land rentals as form of slow exclusion and dispossession in Colombian irrigated landscapes. To be submitted to *Journal of Peasant Studies*.

Quiroga, A.M, **Baumann, M.D.**, & Acevedo Osorio, A. Importance of biological indicators of soil sustainability: A temporal study of changing soil structure in rice paddies. To be submitted to *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment* in February 2021.

Non-Peer Reviewed/Other Publications

2018 Baumann, M.D. Stephen Sherwood, Alberto Arce and Myriam Paredes (eds.): Food, Agriculture and Social Change: The Everyday Vitality of Latin America. *Journal of Latin American Geography*.

2016 Baumann, M.D. Daniel R. Block and Howard B. Rosing: Chicago: a food biography. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 1-2.

2012 "Unburying Kimbell: Logan Square's Agricultural Legacy" in *AREA#12:Intersections*, Chicago: 36. Print. Co-authored with Dave Snyder.

JOURNAL ISSUE ORGANIZED

- 2021 *Journal of Great Lakes Research*. Social Science in the Great Lakes. Editorial Assistant with organizers Dr. Paul Seelbach (University of Michigan) and Dr. Katie Williams (EPA). For May-August 2021.
- 2020 *Geoforum*. Agrobiodiversity in Conflict and Post-Conflict Landscapes”, co-organized with Gabriel Tamariz (Penn State Geography). Under review as of February 2021: 4 of 7 papers published.
*Organized following paper session and round-table at 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2018-2019 Dissertation research. Supported by the *National University of Colombia (UNAL), Bogotá, College of Agricultural Sciences* and the *Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History (ICANH)*. Tolima, Colombia. August - July.
- 2017 Field research for project with Zimmerer GeoSyntheSES Lab. Supported by the *Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)*. Jinotega & Matagalpa, Nicaragua. June - July.
- 2016 Field research for Master’s thesis. *Funded by Bioversity International & Penn State’s GeoSyntheSES Lab. Supported by CATIE*. Jinotega, Nicaragua. June - July.

AWARDS

- 2018 Best Dissertation Proposal, Second Place, Penn State Geography
- 2018 Graduate Student Travel Award to Conference for Latin American Geographers (CLAG), Penn State Global Programs
- 2017 Conference for Latin American Geographers Graduate Travel Award

INVITED COLLOQUIA & GUEST LECTURES

- 2021 *Upcoming*. “Megaproyectos de riego y dinámicas socioambientales.” *Acevedo Lab, National University of Colombia – Bogotá, Agronomy Department*. Guest research presentation. February 25.
- 2020 “Virtual Water and Global Food Production.” *Penn State University, Department of Geography*. Guest lecture for course Environment and Society in a Changing World. November 16.
- 2020 “Field research in the era of covid19: Creative approaches to methods and fieldwork.” *Penn State University, Department of Geography*. Professional development panel. October 15.
- 2019 “Agricultural development and uneven benefits: Rethinking infrastructure for increased production.” *University of Colorado-Boulder, Department of Geography*. Guest lecture for course Geography of International Development. November 4.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 *Upcoming*. “Learning at Pickle Ponds: what does R2R2R look like in a place.” *Poster Presentation*. *Interdisciplinary team of authors from EPA ORD: Katie Williams, Ted Angradi, **Megan Baumann**, Sophia Green, Tom Hollenhorst, Jennifer Josephs, Jon Launspach, Keahna Margeson, Sebastian Paczuski, Molly Wick, Julia Witts. *10th Annual St. Louis River Summit*. March.
- 2021 *Upcoming*. “The Tolima Triangle rice boom: Expanding spatial and relational concepts of irrigation water use and access.” *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG)*. [Virtual]. April.
- 2020 *Co-presented poster with undergraduate student Ana María Quiroga*. “Sustainability analysis of soil health in rice agroecosystems and traditional agroecosystems of indigenous Pijao communities in southern Tolima.” *VIII Latin American Congress of Agroecology*. [Virtual]. November 25-27.
- 2020 “The social life of soil in irrigation infrastructure: (Mis)aligned management of water and soil in Colombia’s Tolima Valley.” Panel Session: Political ecologies desde Abya Yala: A theoretical and empirical debate from Latin America. Co-authors: Ana María Quiroga and Dr. Álvaro Acevedo Osorio. *POLLEN 2020*. [Virtual]. September 22.
- 2020 “Acceso a y usos de los suelos en paisajes de riego: Los megadistritos de Tolima.” (Access to and use of soils in irrigated landscapes: Tolima’s megadistricts.) Panel session: Acceso y uso de la tierra en escenarios de transición: conflictos y negociaciones. (Access to and use of the land in scenes of transition: conflicts and negotiations.) *Latin American Studies Association 2020 Congress*. [Virtual]. May 13.
- 2020 “Remaking soil in dryland irrigation megaprojects: (Mis)aligned management of water and soil in Colombia’s Tolima Valley.” Paper Session: Integrating Land and Water Management and Policy in the Western U.S. and Other Dry Regions. *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG)*. [Virtual]. April 6.
- 2019 “The in-between, the collective and speaking up: Methodological implications of Maria Lugones’ work.” Paper Session: Beyond Metaphors of Decolonization: Engaging the Intersections of Feminist Geography and Decolonial Feminist Theory. *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG)*. Washington, D.C. April.
- 2018 “Farmer Seed Projects and Environmental Landscape Knowledge in Nicaragua.” Paper Session: Farmer decision-making in a changing world: Probing the complexities of farmer action for more sustainable and just food systems - II. *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG)*. New Orleans, Louisiana. April.
- 2018 “Irrigation megaprojects and solidarity in Tolima, Colombia: A streetwalker methodology informs feminist political ecology.” Paper Session: Women & Gender Equity in Agriculture: Dialogues in Agrarian Feminism. *Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference (DoPE)*. University of Kentucky. February.

- 2017 “Distance Isolation and Caging: Seed Production as Resistance Against Alienation Through a Feminist Geopolitics Analytic.” Paper Session: Critical Agricultures. *Critical Geographies Conference*. Penn State University. October.
- 2017 “The Role of Landscape Cognition in Smallholder Crop Management for Food Security in Nicaragua.” Paper Session: Transforming Human-Environment Interactions Research through Integrative Methods 1. *Conference of the American Association of Geographers*. April.
- 2017 “Landscape Cognition and Smallholder Food Security in Northern Nicaragua.” In Paper Session: Sustainability, Transition, Livelihoods. *Latin American Geographers Conference*. New Orleans, Louisiana. January.

SESSIONS ORGANIZED AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

- 2019 Co-organizer (with Dr. A. Marie Ranjbar, University of Colorado at Boulder), “Beyond Metaphors of Decolonization: Engaging the Intersections of Feminist Geography and Decolonial Feminist Theory I & II. Paper sessions (2) for the *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers*. Washington, D.C. April.
- 2018 Co-organizer (with Dr. Kelsey Emard, Oregon State University), “Interseccionalidad y colonialidad en geografía socioambiental: Contribuciones empíricas de América Latina a la teoría feminista.” (Intersectionality and coloniality in human-environment geography: Empirical contributions from Latin American feminist theory.) Paper session for the *Conference for Latin American Geographers (CLAG)*. San Juan, Costa Rica. May.
- 2017 Co-organizer and co-chair (with Dr. Russell Hedberg, Shippensburg University), “Farmer decision-making in a changing world: Probing the complexities of farmer action for more sustainable and just food systems.” Paper sessions (3) for the *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers*. New Orleans, LA. April.
- 2017 Co-organizer and co-chair (with Gabriel Tamariz, Penn State University), “Agrobiodiversity in Conflict and Post-Conflict Landscapes.” Panel and paper session for the *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers*. New Orleans, LA. April.
Resulted in Geoforum special issue.

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

Course Instructor

- 2018 Environment and Society in a Changing World (GEOG30) (3.0 credits)
Penn State University, University Park, PA
Class size of 16 students. Six-week summer intensive course.
- 2014 Season Extension Techniques for Urban Vegetable Growers (3.0 credits)
Westside Technical Institute, Chicago, IL
Developed the course and syllabus and taught the pilot course.
Class size of 12 students. Semester-long evening course for non-traditional students, including justice-system involved individuals.

Undergraduate Research Assistants

Ana María Quiroga	Bachelor of Science in Agronomy	National University of Colombia
María Paula Hernandez	Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology	Rosario University, Colombia
Hannah Perrelli	Bachelor of Science in Geography	Penn State
Brit Ikes	Bachelor of Science in Geography	Penn State
Zixuan Huang	Bachelor of Science in Geography	Penn State
Panini Pandya	Bachelor of Science in Geography	Penn State
Nicole Rivera	Bachelor of Science in Geography	Penn State

Teaching Assistant, Penn State University

- 2017 Early African History (AFR 101)
- 2016 Geography of Africa (GEOG 105/AFR 105)
- 2016 Introduction to Political Ecology (GEOG 131)
- 2016 Introduction to Geopolitics (GEOG 128)
- 2015 Introduction to Human Geography (GEOG 020)

Trainings

- 2018 Foundational Instruction Series completion, Schreyer Institute of Teaching Excellence

Nonacademic Teaching

Instructor, Chicago Greencorps Youth Program

June - August 2015

Taught 6-week summer program in urban ecology to 50 urban high school students. Organized and instructed lessons on urban ecology and environmental justice.

Agricultural Educator & Farm Coordinator, Chicago Botanic Garden's Windy City Harvest

March 2013 - May 2015

Created curriculum for experiential teaching of environmental and plant sciences and horticulture. Taught cohorts of 28 high school students. Managed one-acre sustainably grown vegetable farm. Supervised grower and two interns.

SERVICE

Scholarly Affiliations

American Association of Geographers (AAG)
Conference for Latin American Geographers (CLAG)
Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG)

Reviewer

- 2021- *Journal for Great Lakes Research*
- 2020- *Geoforum*
- 2020- *Agriculture & Human Values*

Disciplinary Service

2020-2022 Treasurer, Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers

Departmental Service

2015- Nature-Society Working Group
2017- Zimmerer GeoSyntheSES Lab, *Coordinator*
2017-2018 Supporting Women in Geography, *Treasurer*
2016-2018 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Connection, *Coordinator*
2017-2018 Graduate Student Representative & Treasurer

JUSTICE, DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

- Serve currently on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee of Geographies of Food & Agriculture Specialty Group in which we highlight and center the scholarship of underrepresented researchers.
- Participated in trainings on diversity, equity and inclusion and associated topics through Penn State.
- Led Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG), a Penn State group promoting and supporting underrepresented groups.
- Mentored seven undergraduate students as Research Assistants, six of which identify as women and/or students of color.
- Conducted community outreach around social-environmental issues in primarily Latinx and Black communities in Cook and Lake counties, populations historically excluded from environmental discussions.
- Planned and implemented qualitative research program with input from Indigenous peoples in Colombia for their efforts to secure government regulations for more equitable water access.

NONACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Volunteer, Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Research and Development Great Lakes Toxicology and Ecology Division, Ecosystem Services Branch
August 2020 – *Present*

Contribute to interdisciplinary research on ecosystem services, specifically developing research instruments and methodologies to assess the social benefits of environmental remediation and restoration projects. The research advances EPA work into 'revitalization' processes following remediation and restoration.

Instructor, Chicago Greencorps Youth Program
June - August 2015

Created and delivered curriculum on urban ecology to two cohorts of 25 students each throughout nine weeks. Topics included participatory neighborhood mapping, field methods, soil cores, and water testing.

Agricultural Educator & Farm Coordinator, Chicago Botanic Garden's Windy City Harvest
March 2013 - May 2015

Taught ecology and horticulture to cohorts of 30 students in farm and forest preserves settings. Topics included climate change, soil health, plant biology, marketing, and culinary arts.

Research Specialist, Institute for Health Research and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago
February - July 2011

Led bilingual data collection teams in 16 cities for research program Bridging the Gap, examining access to healthy food options and opportunities for wellbeing in neighborhoods. Lead PI: Dr. Frank Chaloupka.

Paralegal & Accredited Representative of Asylum Project, National Immigrant Justice Center

May 2008 - May 2010

Represented before Chicago Immigration Court and USCIS asylum seekers from various countries including Colombia, Eritrea, Iran, and Myanmar. Coordinated over 250 open cases and more than 1,000 *pro bono* attorneys. Screened more than 500 potential cases through in-person interviews and research.