

Laura-Anne Minkoff-Zern

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Education

Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, Department of Geography, Spring, 2012
Dissertation: *Migrations of Hunger and Knowledge: Food Insecurity and California's Indigenous Farm Workers*.

B.A., Cornell University, Spring 2004, *Magna Cum Laude*
Sustainable Agriculture and Development, College Scholar Program, Concentration in Latin American
Studies, Honors Thesis: *Local and Alternative Agricultural Practices for Permanent Soil Fertility in San
Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala*.

Previous Positions

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, 2012-2014
Goucher College, Department of Environmental Studies

Publications

Books

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2019. *The New American Farmer: Immigration, Race, and the Struggle
for Sustainability*. M.I.T. Press.

Peer Reviewed Articles in Professional Journals

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne, Rick Welsh, and Maizy T. Ludden. 2019. "Immigrant Farmers, Sustainable
Practices: Growing Ecological and Racial Diversity in Alternative Agrifood Spaces." *Agroecology and
Sustainable Food Systems*. Early View Online Sept 19, 2019.

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2018. "Race, Immigration, and the Agrarian Question: Farmworkers
Becoming Farmers in the United States." *The Journal of Peasant Studies*. Volume 45 (2): 389-408.

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne and Welsh, Rick. 2017. "The Difference Between the Vaccine and the G.M.O. Food Debates." *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*. Vol 32(5): 387-388.

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2017. "The Case for Taking Account of Labor in Sustainable Food Systems in The United States." *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*. Volume 32(6): 576-578.

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne and Sea Sloat. 2017. "A New Era of Civil Rights?: Latino Immigrant Farmers and Exclusion at the United States Department of Agriculture." *Agriculture and Human Values*. Volume 34 (3): 631-643.

Levkoe, Charles Z, McClintock, Nathan, **Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne**, Coplen, Amy K., Gaddis, Jennifer, Lo, Joann, Tendick-Matesanz, Felipe, and Weiler, Anelyse. 2016. "Forging Links Between Food Chain Labor Activists and Academics." *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*. Special Issue on Labor in the Food System. Volume 6 (2).

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne and Megan Carney. 2015. "Latino Im/migrants, "Dietary Health," and Social Exclusion: A Critical Examination of Nutrition Interventions in California." *Food, Culture, and Society*. Volume 18 (3).

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2014. "Subsidizing Farmworker Hunger: Food Assistance Programs, Farmworker Gardens, and the Social Reproduction of California Farm Labor." *Geoforum*. Volume 57.

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2014. "Hunger Amidst Plenty: Farmworker Food Insecurity and Coping Strategies in California." *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*. Special issue on Interstitial and Subversive Food Spaces. Volume 19 (2).

Brahinsky, Rachel, **Laura-Anne Minkoff-Zern**, and Jade Sasser. 2014. "Race, Space, and Nature: An Introduction and Critique." Introduction to guest edited special issue. *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*. Volume 46 (5).

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2014. "Knowing "Good Food": Immigrant Knowledge and the Racial Politics of Farmworker Food Insecurity." *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*. Special Edited Volume on Race, Space, and Nature. Volume 46 (5).

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2014. "Challenging the Agrarian Imaginary: Farmworker-Led Food Movements and the Potential for Farm Labor Justice." *Human Geography*. 18 Volume 7 (1).

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2012. "Pushing the Boundaries of Indigeneity and Agricultural Knowledge: Oaxacan Immigrant Community Gardening in California." *Agriculture and Human Values*. Volume 29 (3).

Edited Book Chapters

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne and Sea Sloat. Forthcoming January 2020. "Labor and Legibility: Mexican Immigrant Farmers and Resource Access at the United States Department of Agriculture." In Agyeman, J. and S. Giacalone (eds). *The Immigrant-Food Nexus*. M.I.T. Press.

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2017. "Farmworker-Led Food Movements Then and Now: The United Farmworkers, The Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Potential for Farm Labor Justice." In Alkon, A. and J. Guthman (eds). *The New Food Activism: Opposition, Cooperation, and Collective Action*. University of California Press.

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2017. "Crossing Borders, Overcoming Boundaries: Latino Immigrant Farmers and a New Sense of Home in the United States." In *Food Across Borders: Production, Consumption and Boundary Crossing in North America*. Melanie Dupuis, Don Mitchell, and Matthew Garcia, Eds. Rutgers University Press.

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne, Nancy Peluso, Jennifer Sowerwine and Christy Getz. 2011. "Race and Regulation: Asian Immigrants in California Agriculture." In *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability*. Alison Alkon and Julian Agyeman, eds. M.I.T. Press.

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2010. "Agribusiness." In *Green Food, An A-to-Z Guide*, Dustin J. Mulvaney and Paul Robbins, eds. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications.

Book Reviews

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2013. A Review of "Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States." *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*. Online.

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2013. A Review of "Free Food For All: Fixing School Food In America", *Food and Foodways: Explorations in the History and Culture of Human Nourishment*, Vol 21 (2): 156-158.

Professional Papers/Popular Press

Minkoff-Zern-Laura-Anne, Charles Levkoe, Levi Van Sant, Laura Johnson, Joshua Sbicca, Courtney Gallaher, Colleen Hammelman, Daniel Block, and Russell Hedberg. April 9, 2017. "Uncertain Future for U.S. Food System." Op. Ed. *Finger Lakes Times*.

Minkoff-Zern, Jonah and **Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne**. 2015. "Citizen's United Ruling; A Dangerous Expansion of Corporate Power in the U.S." *Right to Food and Nutrition Watch: People's Nutrition is Not a Business*. F.I.A.N. International (7), 28.

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne. 2013. "Care about Your Food? Then Care about Your Farmworkers Too." YES Magazine. Online Jan 30, 2013. Reprinted in 2013. *Menu For the Future*. Northwest Earth Institute.

Meade, Sarah and **Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne.** 2013. "Market Offers Wealth of Tradition—and Veggies—for Immigrant Farmers and Shoppers. Online Oct 7, 2013.

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Anne and Christy Getz. 2011. "Farmworkers- The Basis and Bottom of the Food Chain." *Race, Poverty, and the Environment*. Vol 18. No 1.

Gillon, Sean, **Minkoff, Laura-Anne,** and Thistlethwaite, Rebecca. 2007. "Grounding Ourselves: Innovative Land Tenure Models in California and Beyond." California Food and Justice Network Working Paper. Community Food Security Coalition. Reprinted 2008. In *Farmer's Guide to Securing Land*. Sebastopol, California: California Farmlink.

Minkoff, Laura-Anne. *Local and Alternative Practices for Soil Fertility in San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala*. 2004. Resource document for The Mesoamerican Institute for Permaculture (I.M.A.P.), San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala.

Minkoff, Laura-Anne. *Land Ownership in Guatemala*. 2004. Resource document for The Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (N.I.S.G.U.A.), Washington D.C.

Presentations

Invited Papers/Presentations

Colloquium Presentation, *The New American Farmer: Immigration, Race, and the Struggle for Sustainability*. University of British Columbia. Department of Land and Food Systems. 2019.

Panelist, "Hungry for Change: Critical Interventions in Contemporary Food Studies." Association of American Anthropologists Annual Meeting, Vancouver; 2019.

Book Panelist, *The New American Farmer: Immigration, Race, and the Struggle for Sustainability*. The Boston Book Festival; 2019.

Colloquium Presentation, *The New American Farmer: Immigration, Race, and the Struggle for Sustainability*. Middlebury College. Howard E. Woodin Environmental Studies Colloquium Series; 2019.

Panelist, "Public Diplomacy Symposium 2019: Gastrodiplomacy Panel." Syracuse University. Maxwell School. October; 2019.

Presentation/Panelist, *Food Justice, Migration, and the Food System*, "Democratizing Knowledge Event on Food Justice, Migration, and Labor." Hosted by the Writing Department, Syracuse University; 2018.

Presentation, *The New American Farmer: Identity, Race and Immigration*. Tolley Humanities Faculty Dinner, Syracuse University; 2018.

Presentation, *The New American Farmer: Agrarian Questions, Race, and Immigration*. Geography Department Colloquium; Syracuse University; 2017.

Panelist, "Food and Immigration," National Food Policy Conference, Washington D.C.; 2017.

Plenary Commentator, "Bread and Water in the 21st Century," American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, Boston; 2017.

Panelist, "Race and Space," American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, Boston; 2017.

Visiting Scholar/ Invited Presentation: *From Farmworkers to Farm Owners: An Introduction*; University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Workshop on Food, Agriculture, and Society, U.T. Humanities Center; 2017.

Presentation, *The New American Farmer: Agrarian Questions, Race, and Immigration*; Cornell University, Department of Development Sociology; 2016

Presentation, *The New American Farmer: Agrarian Questions, Race, and Immigration*; Lampert Institute for Civic and Global Affairs, Colgate University; 2016.

Paper Presentation, *The New American Farmer: Agrarian Questions, Race, and Immigration*; Search for Common Ground Seminar Series; Modesto College; 2015.

Paper Presentation, *Agrarian Spaces, Race, and Legibility: Latino Immigrant Farmers and Exclusion at the United States Department of Agriculture*, "Race and Rurality in the Global Economy" Workshop, Duke University, 2015.

Panelist, Beyond the Academy, Nature and Society Workshop, Department of Geography, Syracuse University; 2014.

Paper Presentation, *The New American Farmer: Mexican Immigrant Growers in the United States*; Towson University, Geography Department What Matters Speakers Series.

Paper Presentation, *Migrations of Hunger and Knowledge: Food Insecurity and California's Indigenous Farm Workers*; University of Maryland, Baltimore, Geography Department Colloquium; 2013.

Presentation, *Addressing Farmworker Food Insecurity*; Berkeley School of Law Food Justice Symposium; U.C. Berkeley; 2011.

Paper Presentation, *Corn Across Borders: Immigration, Labor, and Travelling Knowledge*. Symposium on The “Americorn” Way; U.C. Berkeley; 2011.

Conference Papers and Other Participation

Immigrant Farmers, Sustainable Practices: Growing Ecological and Racial Diversity in Alternative Agrifood Spaces; Association of American Anthropologists Annual Meeting, Vancouver; 2019.

Parallel Precarity: A Comparison of United States and Canadian Agricultural Guestworker Programs; American Association of Geographers; Washington D.C.; 2019.

Global Migration, Labor, and Food Production: Agricultural Guestworkers Past and Present; Session Organizer/ Chair; American Association of Geographers; Washington D.C.; 2019.

Immigration, Identity, and Agricultural Practice: Recreating Home Through the Family Farm. Joint Conference of Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society; Madison; 2018.

What Does an Alternative Farmer Look Like?: Growing Ecological and Social Diversity; American Association of Geographers; New Orleans; 2018.

Food Across Borders; Author Meets Critics; American Association of Geographers; New Orleans; 2018.

Crossing Borders, Overcoming Boundaries: Latino Immigrant Farmers and a New Sense of Home in The United States; American Association of Geographers; San Francisco; 2016.

Food Across Borders; Session Organizer; American Association of Geographers; San Francisco; 2016.

Land, Justice and Agrifood Movements: Trajectories and Tensions; Session Organizer/ Chair; American Association of Geographers; San Francisco; 2016.

Race and the Agrarian Question; Discussant; American Association of Geographers; San Francisco; 2016.

Race, Immigration, and the Agrarian Question: Latino Immigrant Farmers in the United States; Joint Conference of Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society; Pittsburg; 2015.

Race, Immigration, and the Agrarian Question: Latino Immigrant Farmers in the United States, American Association of Geographers; Chicago; 2015.

Food Politics and The Agrarian Question; Session Organizer/ Chair: American Association of Geographers; Chicago; 2015.

Crossing Borders, Overcoming Boundaries: Latino Immigrant Farmers and a New Sense of Home in the United States; Symposium participant, paper presentation, at Food Across Borders: Production, Consumption, and Boundary Crossing in North America, A Joint Symposium Sponsored by The William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies and the Comparative Border Studies Program at Arizona State University; 2014.

The New American Farmer: The Agrarian Question, Food Sovereignty and Immigrant Mexican Growers in The United States; Food Sovereignty: A Critical Dialogue; Yale University; 2013.

Food Movements and Farm Labor: Strengthening Coalitions For Equality In The Food System; Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference; University of Kentucky; 2012.

Panelist; Migration and Alternative and Non-Capitalist Political Ecologies; Society for Applied Anthropology Meeting; 2012.

The Agrarian Question In California: Migration And (Non) Traditional New Farmers; Association of American Geographers Meeting; New York; 2012.

Farmworker Food Insecurity, The Agrarian Question, and (Non)traditional New Farmers; Critical Geography Conference; Clark University; 2011.

Knowing "Good Food": Immigrant Knowledge and the Racial Politics of Farmworker Food Insecurity; Race, Space, and Nature: A One Day Symposium at U.C. Berkeley; 2011.

Knowing "Good Food": Immigrant Knowledge and the Racial Politics of Farmworker Food Insecurity; Association of American Geographers National Conference; Seattle; 2011.

Moderator and Discussant; Labor and Health Across the Food Industry; California Studies Association Annual Conference; Oakland, California; 2011.

Moderator and Discussant; Farmworkers Across Borders; International Day of Peasant Struggle Celebration; Sponsored by the Bay Area Friends of the M.S.T., La Via Campesina, and the Urban Studies Program of the San Francisco Art Institute; 2011.

Migrations of Hunger and Knowledge: Food Insecurity and California's Indigenous Farm Workers; Association of American Geographers National Conference; Washington D.C.; 2010.

Grants and Awards

University level Nomination: Carnegie Fellows Program; 2019.

Collaboration for Unprecedented Success and Excellence (CUSE) Grant Program; Syracuse University; 2019.

Fahs-Beck Foundation; 2019.

Lerner Center Faculty Fellow Program; Syracuse University; 2019.

Research Seed Grant; David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics; Syracuse University; 2018.

Labor Studies Grant; Work, Labor and Citizenship Initiative; Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs; Syracuse University; 2017.

Research Seed Grant; David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics; Syracuse University; 2016.

Association of American Geographers Research Grant Award; 2016.

Crosby Course Development Grant; Goucher College; 2013.

Rosenberg Grant for Immigration Reporting; The Rosenberg Foundation and U.C. Berkeley School of Journalism; 2011.

Honorable mention; Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society Student Research Paper Awards; 2011; Paper title: Pushing the Boundaries of Indigeneity and Agricultural Knowledge: Immigrant Community Gardening in California.

Society of Woman Geographer's Graduate Studies Fellowship; 2010.

Programa de Investigación de Migración y Salud (P.I.M.S.A.) and the Health Initiative of the Americas' dissertation research grant; 2010.

The University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (U.C.M.E.X.U.S.) Grant for Student Research; 2009.

The Center for Race and Gender Graduate Student Research Grant; U.C. Berkeley; 2009.

Media Highlights

"Exploring the Role of Labor, Migration in the Food System." October 1, 2019. Usagnet.

“Meet Dr. Laura-Anne Minkoff-Zern, Food Studies Assistant Professor.” Women in Agricultural Sciences. September 13, 2019.

“Uprooted and transplanted: Farms across the U.S. are helping refugees connect with the new soil with the age-old practice of farming.” Medium. April 23, 2019.

“Ag Census: More Latinx farmers own their land. Could they make the food system more sustainable?” April 15, 2019. Civil Eats.

“Court denies growers’ request on farm worker wage rates.” March 21, 2019. The Fencepost.

“Racial injustice, immigration, and labor in the food system.” March 4, 2019. Rootstock Radio.

“Food activism and farmworkers.” December 17, 2018. Against the Grain on K.P.F.A. Radio.

June 2018. W.A.E.R. Local radio report on the national immigration bill and the potential effect on agricultural workers.

“Immigrants in food industry: McDonald’s bun-maker fires 800 illegal workers, now struggling” November 30, 2017. International Business Times.

“Immigration raids could send milk prices soaring.” April 14, 2017. The Fencepost.

“What would America’s food supply look like without immigrant labor?” Jan 31, 2017. Vice.

“The berry of the future is fed a specialized diet and picked by a robot.” November 21, 2016. Bloomberg.

“Laura-Anne Minkoff-Zern: exploring the crossroads of people and food.” July 2016. Syracuse Woman.

“A. Donald Trump presidency could lead to food shortages in the U.S.” March 30, 2016. Quartz.

Courses Taught

Syracuse University, Department of Food Studies and Nutrition:

Transnational Food, Health, and the Environment; Spring 2019

Food Studies and Systems; Fall 2017, Fall 2019

Labor Across the Food System; Fall 2014; 2017; 2019

Food, Identity, and Power; Fall 2015

Food Movements; Spring 2015; 2016; 2018

Feeding the World: Global Agri-food Governance; Spring 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019

Farm Labor Policy and History: Directed Independent Study with doctoral student; Spring 2015

Goucher College, Department of Environmental Studies:

Industrial Food and Agrarian Change; Spring 2014
Political Ecology; Summer 2010, Fall 2013, Spring 2014
Biosphere and Society; Fall 2012 and 2013
Senior Capstone Course; Spring 2013
Introduction to Environmental Studies; Fall 2012

University of California, Washington D.C. Program:

Food and Agriculture History and Policy; Spring 2012

U.C. Berkeley, Department of Geography:

Political Ecology; Summer 2010

Service

University and Department Service

Faculty Advisor, Slow Food Student Club
Faculty Advisor, Brainfeeders Student Club
Member; Academic Review Committee, Falk College, Syracuse University
Member; Sustainability Committee, Syracuse University
Member; Faculty Advisory Group for Campus as a Lab for Sustainability, Syracuse University
Member; Labor Studies Group, Syracuse University
Advisor; Goucher Student Farm Project; 2013- 2014
Faculty Member; Goucher Environmental Sustainability Council (G.E.S.A.C.); 2012
Co-founder and member; The Geography Group on Gender and Difference; U.C. Berkeley; 2010-2011

Professional Service

Chair, Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group (G.F.A.S.G.) of the Association of American Geographers (A.A.G.); 2016-2018.

Vice-Chair, Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group (G.F.A.S.G.) of the Association of American Geographers (A.A.G.); 2014-2016.

Chair, Graduate Student Grant Competition, Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group (G.F.A.S.G.) of the Association of American Geographers (A.A.G.); 2014-2015.

Journal, Book, and Award Refereeing

2019:

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.
Agriculture and Human Values.
Journal of Rural Studies.

2018:

Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography; Agriculture and Human Values; Annals of the American Association of Geographers; Food, Culture, and Society.

2017:

Journal of Peasant Studies.

2016:

Economic Geography; The Annals of American Association of Geographers; Journal of Peasant Studies; Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems; Human Organization.

2015:

Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography; Food, Culture, and Society; Food and Foodways; Geoforum; Routledge; M.I.T. Press; Economic Geography; Latino Studies; University of Maryland, Baltimore, Campus (U.M.B.C.) Review.

2014:

Agriculture and Human Values; Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography; Annals of the Association of American Geographers; National Science Foundation.

2013:

Agriculture and Human Values.

Previous Research, Professional Experience, and Training

Mellon Summer Sustainability Institute; Goucher College; 2013.

Researcher and Project Site Coordinator, Farmworker Health Survey, National Latino Research Center (N.L.R.C.), California State University San Marcos; 2010-2011.

Researcher, Eco-agriculture Partners and the U.C. Berkeley Center for Sustainable Resource Development; 2009.

Research Assistant, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (C.A.F.F.), Oakland, California; 2007.

Research Intern, Food First: The Institute for Food and Development Policy, Oakland, California; 2005.

Farm Apprentice, Full Belly Farm, Guinda, California; 2004 - 2005.

Board Member, Planning Task Force of Esparto Farmers Market, Yolo County, California; 2004 - 2005.

Farm Intern, The Mesoamerican Institute for Permaculture, San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala; Certified in Permaculture Design; 2003.

Memberships

Association of American Geographers (A.A.G.) 2005-Present.

Agriculture, Food, and Human Values (A.F.H.V.) 2011-Present.

Rural Sociology Society (R.S.S.) 2016.

American Anthropological Association (A.A.A.) 2019.

Languages

Spanish good and proficient.