

VANESSA RICKENBRODE

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate	Sociology Michigan State University <i>Specialization:</i> Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change	Expected 2022
M.A.	Sociology Michigan State University <i>Thesis Title:</i> “Gender Differentiated Food Security: Productivity Traps in Malawian Agriculture”	2019
B.S.	Community, Environment, and Development The Pennsylvania State University <i>Area concentration:</i> International Development <i>Specialization:</i> Biostatistics <i>Minors:</i> International Agriculture; Biology	2015

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Gender empowerment; agrifood systems; international development; social inequality; feminist epistemology and methodology; mixed methods

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Present	Research Assistant , <i>Issues of Representation in Women Farm Magazines</i> , Department of Sociology, Michigan State University (PI: Dr. Wynne Wright)
2018 - Present	Co-Investigator , <i>Floriculture Contract Farming and the Impacts on Tanzanian Women Farmers</i> , Department of Sociology, Michigan State University (PI: Dr. Wynne Wright)
2020 (Spring)	Research Assistant , <i>Data Management of Surveys</i> , Department of Sociology, Michigan State University (PI: Dr. Sandy Marquart-Pyatt)
2017 (Summer)	Research Assistant , <i>Empowering Women Landowners in Michigan</i> , Department of Sociology, Michigan State University (PI: Dr. Wynne Wright)
2017 (Summer)	Intern , Michigan State University Extension, Saginaw, MI (Under direction of: Julia Darnton, MA)
2015 - 2016	Research Assistant , <i>Practices of Community Task Forces during Marcellus Shale Development</i> , Penn State’s Center for Economic and Community Development, (PI: Dr. Timothy Kelsey)
2015 - 2016	Research Assistant , <i>Pennsylvania Employment Trends</i> , Penn State’s Center for Economic and Community Development, (PI: Drs. Theodore Alter and Ted Fuller)

- 2015 (Fall) **Independent Study**, *Gender Empowerment and Horticultural Value Chains in Honduras*, Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education, The Pennsylvania State University (Under direction of: Dr. Leif Jensen)
- 2015 (Summer) **Undergraduate Researcher**, *Indirect Land Use Change from Sugarcane Expansion in the Brazilian Cerrado*, Kansas State’s Center for Sustainable Bioenergy, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University (PI: Dr. Jason Bergtold)
- 2014 (Summer) **Intern**, Assistant in editing text for country program evaluations for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (Under direction of: Independent monitoring and evaluation consultant Dr. Padma Karunaratne)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE - Michigan State University

Instructor

2019, 2020 (Summer) Social Inequality

- Developed and taught course exposing undergraduate students to theories of intersectional and global inequality, and to help them develop a critical understanding of measurements used and solutions to social inequality.

Co-Instructor

2019 (Spring) Methods of Social Research II

2018 (Fall, Spring) Introduction to Sociology

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Present Analysis of Social Data I (Graduate-Level Statistics)

2019 (Fall) People and Environment: Sociology of Food and Water

2017 (Spring) Sex and Gender

2016, 2017 (Fall) National Diversity and Change: The United States

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Forthcoming **Rickenbrode, Vanessa** and Wynne Wright. “Gender Differentiated Food Security: Productivity Traps in Malawian Agriculture.” *African Journal of Social Sciences*.

2017 Bergtold, Jason S., Marcellus Caldas, Ana Claudia Sant’Anna, Gabriel Granco and **Vanessa Rickenbrode**. 2017. "Indirect Land Use Change from Ethanol Production: The Case of Sugarcane Cane Expansion at the Farm Level on the Brazilian Cerrado." *Journal of Land Use Science* 12(6):442-456.

Technical Reports

2017 Darnton, Julia and **Vanessa Rickenbrode**. 2017. “Avocado Consumption: Environmental and Social Considerations.” Michigan State University Extension, August 24, online ([available here](#))

- 2016 Alter, Theodore R., Theodore E. Fuller, **Vanessa Rickenbrode**, Gretchen Seigworth, and Alexander Riviere. 2016. "Pennsylvania: Great Recession to Recovery?" Center for Economic and Community Development, July, online ([available here](#))

Manuscripts in Progress

Rickenbrode, Vanessa. "Operationalizing Gender Empowerment: An Examination of the Relationship between Feminist Concepts and Empirical Variables." (In preparation for *Women's Studies International Forum*)

Rickenbrode, Vanessa and Wynne Wright. "Development and Empowerment? Contract Flower Farming in Tanzania." *Working Paper*

PRESENTATIONS

Professional Conferences

- August 2019 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa** and Wynne Wright. "Development and Empowerment? Contract Flower Farming in Tanzania" Annual Meeting, Rural Sociological Society. Richmond, VA.
- July 2018 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa.** "Gender Differentiated Food Security: Productivity Traps in Malawian Agriculture" Annual Meeting, Rural Sociological Society. Portland, OR.
- July 2017 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa.** "Farmers Ability to Adapt to Modern Agricultural Practices in Kenya" Annual Meeting, Rural Sociological Society. Columbus, OH.

Invited Talks and Lectures

- Mar 2021 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa,** Deborah Amulen, Oliver Nibiryo, and Wynne Wright. "Exploring the Role of Ugandan Farm Women." Webinar Presentation to University of Toulouse, el Purpan, Toulouse, France.
- Feb 2021 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa,** Deborah Amulen, Oliver Nibiryo, and Wynne Wright. "Empowering East African's Women Farmers" *Michigan State University's Professional Fellows Program.* Webinar Panel.
- Nov 2020 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa.** "Intersectionality" *Social Inequality.* Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- Nov 2019 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa** and Praveena Lakshmanan. "Operationalizing Sex and Gender" *Methods for Women's and Gender Studies Research.* Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- Dec 2015 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa,** Blair Weikel, Casey Schneck and David Costlow "Centre County Food System Needs Assessment" *Centre County Food Summit.* State College, PA.
- Nov 2014 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa.** "Developing Projects, Communities and Personal Growth in Kenya" *Penn State's Engaged Scholarship Expo.* The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.

Poster Presentation

July 2015 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa** “Factors Influencing Indirect Land Use Change by Farmers from Sugarcane Production in the Brazilian Cerrado.” Research Experience for Undergraduates Poster Session. Manhattan, KS. First Place in Poster Session (\$500), and Third Place in People’s Choice Awards (\$100)

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Present **Board Member**, Zawadi Fund International (ZFI), The Children and Youth Empowerment Centre (CYEC)

Present **Graduate Student Representative**, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University

2019 (Fall) **Graduate Student Representative**, Graduate Education Committee, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University

2017 - 2019 **Sociology Department Representative**, Council of Graduate Students (COGS), Michigan State University

2017 - 2018 **Member**, MSU Food Committee, Michigan State University

2013 - 2015 **Cultural Chair**, Alpha Chi Omega (Beta Mu Chapter), The Pennsylvania State University

2013 - 2014 **Education Abroad Global Ambassador**, The Pennsylvania State University

2012 - 2013 **President**, Scrubs Club (Pre-Health Major Club), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND COMMUNITY RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Economic, Community, and Agricultural Development Projects in Kenya

2014 - 2016 **Penn State Student and visiting Alumni**, *Issues in Economic, Community, and Agricultural Development in Kenya*, The Pennsylvania State University (Under direction of: Drs. Janelle Larson, Sjoerd Duiker, and Leif Jensen)

- Imbedded study abroad course aimed at working on sustainable development projects with the Children and Youth Empowerment Center (CYEC) in Nyeri, Kenya.

2016 (Summer) **Team Leader**, Business Team and Gender Team, Nyeri, Kenya (Traveled with: Drs. Janelle Larson and Sjoerd Duiker)

- Facilitated a 5-day business workshop encouraging CYEC youth to plan feasible entrepreneurial business ideas.

2014 (Summer) **Team Leader**, Agricultural Team, Nyeri, Kenya (Traveled with: Drs. Janelle Larson and Leif Jensen)

- Conducted a hay market survey by interviewing dairy farmers and supply stores to assess if investment in the sector would be successful for youth at the CYEC.

Food System Priority Assessment in Centre County, PA

- 2015 (Fall) **Penn State Student, *Community, Environment, and Development Capstone Experience***, The Pennsylvania State University
- Conducted interviews with key informants in Centre County, PA to determine the needs and assets in the local food system.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 **Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change Dissertation Research Fellowship**, Center for Gender in a Global Context, Michigan State University
- 2016 - 2021 **Department of Sociology Graduate Assistantship**, Michigan State University
- 2017 - 2021 **Graduate Office Fellowship**, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
- 2018 **Summer Research Fellowship**, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
- 2014 **Steele Fund for International Agricultural Adventures Award**, The Pennsylvania State University

METHODS TRAINING

Department of Sociology, Michigan State University

- 2018 Multi-Equation Quantitative Models: Multilevel Modeling & Structural Equation Modeling
- 2017 Qualitative Field Research: Design, Data Collection, and Analysis
- 2016 Analysis of Social Data I & II: Linear Regression & Categorical Regression

Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University

- 2019 Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change: Methods and Application

Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University

- 2018 Empirical Methods for Field Research in Developing Countries

Software Proficiencies

STATA	HLM7	Microsoft Office
SPSS	LISREL	MAXQDA
SAS	GRETL	ArcGIS