

# VANESSA RICKENBRODE

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## EDUCATION

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<b>Ph.D.</b>	<b>Sociology</b> Michigan State University <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specialization: Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change</li><li>• Dissertation: <i>Bargaining with Empowerment: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of the Contested Conceptualization, Implementation, and Evaluation of Women's Empowerment</i></li><li>• Committee: Drs. Wynne Wright, Ray Jussaume, Hui Liu, Sejuti Das Gupta</li></ul>	2023
<b>M.A.</b>	<b>Sociology</b> Michigan State University <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thesis: <i>Gender Differentiated Food Security: Productivity Traps in Malawian Agriculture</i></li><li>• Committee: Drs. Wynne Wright, Ray Jussaume, Wenda Bauchspies</li></ul>	2019
<b>B.S.</b>	<b>Community, Environment, and Development</b> The Pennsylvania State University <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specialization: Biostatistics</li><li>• Minors: International Agriculture; Biology</li></ul>	2015

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Women's empowerment, gender, international development, agrifood systems, mixed-methods

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Michigan State University

2022 -	<b>Research Assistant</b> , Institute of Water Research (PIs: Drs. Lois Wolfson, Stephen Gasteyer, Mark Axelrod, Ms. Ruth Kline-Robach) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaborate with interdisciplinary team in managing a mixed-method survey on residents' perceptions of groundwater contaminants in Michigan.</li><li>• Analyze and code quantitative survey data in Stata and communicate findings to the team verbally and in writing by creating reports, tables, and graphs.</li></ul>
2018 - 19	<b>Co-Investigator</b> , Department of Sociology (PI: Dr. Wynne Wright) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducted qualitative fieldwork and analysis using semi-structured interviews with women flower farmers in Arusha, Tanzania.</li><li>• Presented findings on the empowerment potential of women's floriculture employment at the Annual Rural Sociological Society Conference.</li></ul>
2017	<b>Research Assistant</b> , Department of Sociology (PI: Dr. Wynne Wright) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wrote literature review on women's empowerment, women farmers, and women landowners in the United States.</li></ul>

## **The Pennsylvania State University**

- 2015 - 16     **Research Assistant**, Center for Economic and Community Development (PIs: Drs. Timothy Kelsey, Theodore Alter, Ted Fuller)
- Developed questionnaire and managed mail survey data of landowners and business owners in Pennsylvania.
  - Analyzed employment data using Excel and ArcGIS to co-publish a report on employment trends in Pennsylvania.
- 2014 - 16     **Student and Invited Alumna Project Lead**, Embedded Study Abroad/Initiative in Kenya (PIs: Drs. Janelle Larson, Leif Jensen, Sjoerd Duiker)
- Designed a hay market survey and conducted in-person structured interviews with dairy farmers and supply store managers in Nyeri, Kenya.
  - Directed and co-created gender-sensitive capacity building workshops at the Children and Youth Empowerment Center ([CYEC](#)) in Nyeri, Kenya.

## **Kansas State University**

- 2015     **Research Assistant**, Department of Agricultural Economics (PI: Dr. Jason Bergtold)
- Examined factors influencing indirect land use change from sugarcane expansion using Brazilian farmer survey data in multivariate regression.
  - Co-authored an article published in the *Journal of Land Use Science*.

## **Independent Monitoring, Evaluation, and Gender Consultant**

- 2014     **Intern** to Dr. Padma Karunaratne
- Revised country program evaluation reports for the United National Population Fund (UNFPA) with a focus on sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and gender equality.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE - Michigan State University**

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- 2019 - 22     **Instructor**
- Course: Social Inequality (online summer course).
  - Developed and taught course on theories of intersectional and global inequality and mentored students in developing a critical understanding of metrics used by social scientists and solutions to social equality.
- 2018 - 21     **Co-Instructor**
- Courses: Analysis of Social Data I (graduate-level statistics), Methods of Social Research II, Introduction to Sociology.
  - Led classes of 6 - 83 students and co-developed curriculum for labs.
  - Taught graduate and undergraduate students research methods including how to run, code, and interpret statistical tests using Stata and SPSS.
- 2016 - 19     **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
- Courses: People and Environment, Sex and Gender, National Diversity and Change.
  - Assisted in grading essays and exams, communicating with students, providing in-person office hours, and managing gradebooks.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Refereed Journal Articles

- 2020        **Rickenbrode, Vanessa** and Wynne Wright. 2020. "Gender Differentiated Food Security: Productivity Traps in Malawian Agriculture." *African Journal of Social Sciences (AJSS)* 10(1):41-62.
- 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 ([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 ([available here](#))

### Manuscripts in Progress

- Rickenbrode, Vanessa**. "Evaluating Women's Empowerment in Rural Jharkhand, India: A Feminist Structural Equation Modeling Approach."
- Rickenbrode, Vanessa**. "Framing Empowerment for Women in the Global South: A Frame Analysis of Contested Claims in the Development Discourse."
- Rickenbrode, Vanessa**. "Operationalizing Empowerment: An Examination of the Relationship Between Feminist Concepts and Empirical Variables."

## PRESENTATIONS

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### Professional Conferences

- 2022        **Rickenbrode, Vanessa**. "Empowering to Whom? Contested Frames for Empowering Women" Annual Meeting, Rural Sociological Society. Westminster, CO.
- 2019        **Rickenbrode, Vanessa** and Wynne Wright. "Development and Empowerment? Contract Flower Farming in Tanzania" Annual Meeting, Rural Sociological Society. Richmond, VA.
- 2018        **Rickenbrode, Vanessa**. "Gender Differentiated Food Security: Productivity Traps in Malawian Agriculture" Annual Meeting, Rural Sociological Society. Portland, OR.
- 2017        **Rickenbrode, Vanessa**. "Farmers Ability to Adapt to Modern Agricultural Practices in Kenya" Annual Meeting, Rural Sociological Society. Columbus, OH.

### Invited Talks and Guest Lectures

- 2021        **Rickenbrode, Vanessa**, Wynne Wright, and Abigail Bennett. "Ecofeminism" Panel hosted by Amnesty International MSU and Public Interest Research Group in Michigan. Webinar Panel.

- 2021 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa**, Deborah Amulen, Oliver Nibiryo, and Wynne Wright. “Exploring the Role of Ugandan Farm Women” University of Toulouse, el Purpan, Toulouse, France. Webinar Presentation.
- 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.
- 2020 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa**. “Intersectionality” Course: Social Inequality, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. Guest Lecturer.
- 2019 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa** and Praveena Lakshmanan. “Operationalizing Sex and Gender” Course: Methods for Women's and Gender Studies Research, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. Guest Lecturer.
- 2015 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa**, Blair Weikel, Casey Schneck, and David Costlow “Centre County Food System Needs Assessment” Centre County Food Summit, State College, PA. Oral Presentation.
- 2014 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa**. “Developing Projects, Communities, and Personal Growth in Kenya” Penn State’s Engaged Scholarship Expo, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. Oral Presentation.

#### **Poster Presentation**

- 2015 **Rickenbrode, Vanessa** “Factors Influencing Indirect Land Use Change by Farmers from Sugarcane Production in the Brazilian Cerrado.” Kansas State’s Summer Research Symposium. Manhattan, KS.

#### **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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- 2023 Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$9,000)
- 2022 Graduate Office Fellowship (\$950)
- 2021 Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$10,000)
- 2021 Graduate Office Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$4,000)
- 2020 Graduate Office Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$610)
- 2019 Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$1,500)
- 2017 Summer Research Fellowship (\$2,700)
- 2017 Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$500)
- 2016 - 21 Department of Sociology Graduate Assistantship (tuition and stipend)
- 2015 Kansas State Research Symposium’s First Place in Poster Session (\$500) and Third Place in People’s Choice (\$100)
- 2014 Steele Fund for International Agricultural Adventures Award (\$100)

#### **SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

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- 2021 - **Board Member**, Zawadi Fund International (ZFI), The Children and Youth Empowerment Centre (CYEC)

2021 - 22      **Graduate Student Representative**, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University

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

2017 – 19      **Sociology Department Representative**, Council of Graduate Students (COGS), Michigan State University

2013 - 15      **Cultural Chair**, Alpha Chi Omega (Beta Mu Chapter), The Pennsylvania State University

2013 - 14      **Education Abroad Global Ambassador**, The Pennsylvania State University

2012 - 13      **President**, Scrubs Club (Pre-Health Major Club), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

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## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

2017 -            **Member**, Rural Sociological Society

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## **OTHER METHODS TRAINING AND SELECTED COURSEWORK**

**Anthropology**, Michigan State University

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

**Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics**, Michigan State University

2018            Empirical Methods for Field Research in Developing Countries

**Sociology**, Michigan State University

2018            Multi-Equation Quantitative Models: Multilevel Modeling and Structural Equation Modeling

2017            Qualitative Field Research: Design, Data Collection, and Analysis

2016            Analysis of Social Data I & II: Linear Regression and Categorical Regression

**Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education**, The Pennsylvania State University

2015            Gender Empowerment and Horticultural Value Chains in Honduras (Independent study under the direction of Dr. Leif Jensen)

## **Software Proficiencies**

Advanced:      Stata, MAXQDA, Mplus, Qualtrics

Intermediate: SPSS, SAS, LISERL, ArcGIS