

MEGAN MAURER

Department of Anthropology
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Education

Kenyon College	Anthropology	BA	2007
University of Kentucky	Anthropology	MA	2013
University of Kentucky	Anthropology	PhD Candidate	2013-present

Grants and Fellowships

- 2014 Dissertation Research Fellowship, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.
- 2014 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation - Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences.

Teaching and Research Experience

- 2013-14 *Dissertation Research*. Conducted surveys, interviews, and participant observation on urban gardening and civic engagement in Southeast Michigan in partial fulfillment of doctoral degree requirements. Funded by NSF and the Wenner-Gren Foundation.
- 2012 *Teaching Assistant*. Anthropology 160: Cultural Diversity in the Modern World. Supervisor: Dr. Renee Bonzani.
- 2012 *Teaching Assistant*. Anthropology 311 (Online): Global Dreams and Local Realities. Supervisor: Dr. Sarah Lyon.
- 2012 *Preliminary Research*. Conducted community garden steward interviews, community garden site visits, and participant observation during two weeks in proposed project research area. Began identifying community gardens in the research area, collecting histories of individual community gardens, observing spatial organization and variability between gardens, and assessing feasibility of project methods.
- 2011 *Preliminary Research*. Conducted interviews and participant observation with urban farming and gardening organizations throughout Southeast Michigan during two months of research. Selected research area for proposed project. Investigated types of urban farming and gardening in the region, motives for urban farming and gardening, and farmers'/gardeners' perceptions of problems facing their local communities and Southeast Michigan.
- 2006 *Undergraduate Research Assistant*. Food For Thought Initiative at Kenyon College. Conducted research regarding consumer perceptions of local food systems. Duties included compiling literature review; conducting surveys, interviews, and participant observation; writing and presenting executive summary of findings. Supervisor: Dr. Bruce Hardy.
- 2006 *Undergraduate Field Research*. Conducted surveys and interviews with farmers regarding rice cultivation methods and soil acidification in Long An, Viet Nam. Supervisor: Dr. Nguyen Van Be.

Selected Paper Presentations

- 2015 Society for Economic Anthropology, Annual Meeting. Lexington, KY. "Building a new economy with local food: Historical perspectives on the current use of urban gardening as economic redevelopment in Michigan." *Accepted abstract*. April 9-11, 2015.
- 2015 Dimensions of Political Ecology, Annual Conference. Lexington, KY. "'I care about the future of my city': Urban gardening, social inequality, and building 'green' communities in deindustrial Michigan." *Accepted abstract*. February 26-28, 2015.
- 2012 Ethnographic Praxis in Industry, Annual Conference. Savannah, GA. Masters and Doctoral Colloquium, "Re-Growing the Rust Belt: Vegetable Gardening, Place-making, and Alternative Economic Development in Southeast Michigan." October 13, 2012.
- 2012 Society for Applied Anthropology, Annual Meetings. Baltimore, MD. "Growing Difference: Identity and Urban Food Production in Southeast Michigan." March 28, 2012.
- 2011 American Anthropological Association, Annual Meetings. Montreal, QC, Canada. "Re-growing the Rust Belt: Urban Farming and Gardening as Community Development in Southeast Michigan." November 17, 2011.
- 2011 Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference. Lexington, KY. "Political Ecologies of Urban Agriculture: Gardens as Spaces of Production and Transgression." February 19, 2011.
- 2007 Society for Applied Anthropology, Annual Meetings. Tampa, FL. "The Potential for a Local, Seasonal Diet in Knox County, Ohio." March 27-31, 2007.

Relevant Professional Experience

- 2009 *Project Administrator*. Growing Hope, Inc. Worked with county health and parks departments and neighborhood associations in the proposed project research area to develop and pilot nutrition-focused summer gardening education program for grades 1-8. Designed and conducted evaluative measures. Supervised staff of nine.
- 2008 *Ameri*Corps VISTA Youth Programming Coordinator*. Growing Hope, Inc. Implemented after-school and summer programs and conducted supplementary classroom education in city and county public schools in proposed project research area for grades preK-12. Supervised staff of three.

Service

- 2011-2012 *Editorial Team Member*. anthropologies: A Collaborative Online Project. Solicited contributions and edited submissions for a bi-monthly, student-run online publication about current topics and issues in the practice of anthropology.
- 2010-13 *Sociology of Agriculture and Food Working Group*. University of Kentucky. Read and reviewed members' research, discussed current publications. Supervisors: Dr. Keiko Tanaka and Dr. Pat Mooney.
- 2010 *Secretary*. Anthropology Graduate Student Association, University of Kentucky.
- 2009 *Distinguished Lecture Series Committee Member*. Anthropology Graduate Student Association, University of Kentucky.

2009

Lexington Community Food Security Assessment. Conducted individual and focus group interviews with local community organizations and leaders to assess concerns with food security and support for a food policy council in Lexington, KY. Drafted recommendations for the formation of a food policy council. Supervisors: Dr. Keiko Tanaka and Dr. Pat Mooney.