

Jessica E. Barnes

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor, Department of Geography and School of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, University of South Carolina, 2020-

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and School of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, University of South Carolina, 2013-20.

Postdoctoral Associate, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and Yale Climate & Energy Institute, 2011-13.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sustainable Development (with Distinction), Columbia University, 2010

M.A., Environmental Management, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, 2004

B.A., Geography (First Class), Oxford University, 2000

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Barnes, J. 2022 *Staple Security: Bread and Wheat in Egypt*. Duke University Press.

-- AAG 2022 Meridian Book Award for Outstanding Scholarly Work in Geography, Honorable Mention, American Association of Geographers.

-- PROSE Award Cultural Anthropology and Sociology Finalist 2023, Association of American Publishers.

-- Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group Book Prize 2024, American Association of Geographers.

-- SERMEISS Book Award 2024, Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Society.

Barnes, J. and Dove, M. (eds) 2015 *Climate Cultures: Anthropological Perspectives on Climate Change*. Yale University Press.

Barnes, J. 2014 *Cultivating the Nile: The Everyday Politics of Water in Egypt*. Duke University Press.

-- James M. Blaut Book Award 2016, Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers.

Peer Reviewed Articles

Barnes, J. submitted. The Politics of Water Vapor: Mold and Moisture in London Homes. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, under minor revisions.

Hemmings, S., Varaden, D., Barnes, J., Elmi, M., Skillern, A., Barratt, B., Mudway, I., Green, D., Kelly, F., and Fisher, M. 2026 Diversity Analysis of Indoor and Outdoor Fungal Bioaerosols in UK Households: A Longitudinal Study. *The Lancet Microbe*, forthcoming.

Aboudihaj, N., Ahmed, A., Ali, S., Amin, F., Chiari, M., Igheldane, M., Karappan, M., Lavila, P., Rozycka, D., Roudette, W., van den Bergh, S., Barnes, J., and Varaden, D. 2025. Dear Scientists: Community Ambassadors' Perspectives on Community-Engaged Research. *Environmental Health Insights*, 19:1-4.

- Barnes, J. 2025 Placing the Environment in Middle East Studies: Beyond the Single Story. *British Journal of Middle East Studies*, 52(4): 1008-1026.
- Barnes, J. 2025 The Future of Staple Foods: The Case of Bread in Egypt. *Geographical Review*, 115(1-2): 81-98.
- Barnes, J. and Centellas, K. 2024 Parenting and the Production of Ethnographic Knowledge. *American Anthropologist*, 126(4): 722-730
- Barnes, J. 2023 Nurseries of the Revolution: International Seed Trials and the Transformation of Staple Food Crops. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 50(3): 1014-1036.
- Barnes, J. and Taher, M. 2023 Walking with Bread in Cairo: Ethnographic Collaboration Between a Researcher and Research Assistant. *Ethnography* <https://doi.org/10.1177/14661381221148904>
- Barnes, J. and Taher, M. 2019 Care and Conveyance: Buying Baladi Bread in Cairo. *Cultural Anthropology*, 34(3): 417-443.
- Farmer, T. and Barnes, J. 2018 Environment and Society in the Middle East and North Africa: Introduction. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 50(3): 375-382.
- Randle, S. and Barnes, J. 2018 Liquid Futures: Water Management Systems and Anticipated Environments. *WIREs Water*, 5. doi: 10.1002/wat2.1274.
- Barnes, J. 2017 The Future of the Nile: Climate Change, Land Use, Infrastructure Management, and Treaty Negotiations in a Transboundary River. *WIREs Climate Change*, 8. doi:10.1002/wcc.449.
- Barnes, J. 2017 States of Maintenance: Power, Politics, and Egypt's Irrigation Infrastructure. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*. 35(1): 146-164.
- Barnes, J. 2016 Separating the Wheat from the Chaff: The Social Worlds of Wheat. *Environment and Society: Advances in Research*, 7: 89-106.
- Barnes, J. 2016 Uncertainty in the Signal: Modeling Egypt's Water Futures. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 22(S1): 46-66.
- Mathews, A. and Barnes, J. 2016 Prognosis: Visions of Environmental Futures. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 22 (S1): 9-26.
- Lahsen, M., Mathews, A., Dove, M., Orlove, B., Puri, R., Barnes, J., McElwee, P., Moore, F., O'Reilly, J., and Yager, K. 2015 Strategies for Changing the Intellectual Climate. *Nature Climate Change*, 5: 391-392.
- Barnes, J. 2014 Mixing Waters: The Reuse of Agricultural Drainage Water in Egypt. *Geoforum*, 57: 181-191.
- Barnes, J. 2013 Water, Water Everywhere but Not a Drop to Drink: The False Promise of Virtual Water. *Critique of Anthropology*, 33(4): 369-387.
- Barnes, J., Dove, M., Lahsen, M., Mathews, A., McElwee, P., McIntosh, R., Moore, F., O'Reilly, J., Orlove, B., Puri, R., Weiss, H., and Yager, K. 2013 Anthropology's Contribution to the Study of Climate Change. *Nature Climate Change*, 3: 541-544.
- Barnes, J. 2012 Pumping Possibility: Agricultural Expansion through Desert Reclamation in Egypt. *Social Studies of Science*, 42(4): 517-538.
- Barnes, J. and Alatout, S. 2012 Water Worlds: Introduction to the Special Issue of Social Studies of Science. *Social Studies of Science*, 42(4): 483-488.
- Barnes, J. 2009 Managing the Waters of Ba'ath Country: The Power and Politics of Syria's Water Scarcity. *Geopolitics*, 14(3): 510-530.
- Barnes, J. 2001 Barchan Dunes on the Kuiseb River Delta, Namibia. *South African Geographical Journal* 83(3): 283-292.

Edited Collections

- Babül, E., Davis, M., Barnes, J. and Lubin, A. 2021 (eds) Race – Legacies and Challenges. *Middle East Report*, 299.
- Barnes, J., Davis, M., and Stamatopoulou-Robbins, S. 2020 (eds) Nature and Politics. *Middle East Report*, 296.
- Barnes, J. 2019 (ed) Book Review Forum on *Against the Grain: A Deep History of the Earliest States* by James C. Scott. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 46(4).

- Farmer, T. and Barnes, J. (eds) 2018 Environment and Society in the Middle East and North Africa. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 50(3).
- Barnes, J. (ed) 2016 Environmental Futures. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 22(Supp) (also published as a book with Wiley-Blackwell).
- Barnes, J. and Alatout, S. (eds) 2012 Water Worlds. *Social Studies of Science*, 42(4).

Edited Book Chapters

- Barnes, J. submitted. Wheat | *Siete Cerros 66* | International Nurseries. In *Seed Scenius: Reinventing the History of Crop Innovation*, Curry, H. (ed), under review.
- Barnes, J. submitted. The Politics of Scarcity: Water in Egypt. In *Everyday Life in the Middle East*, 4th ed, Schulthies, B. and Pinar, F. (eds). Bloomington: Indiana University Press, under review.
- Barnes, J. 2020 Gluten. In *Anthropocene Unseen: A Lexicon*. Howe, C. and Pandian, A. (eds). Goleta: Punctum Books, 215-220.
- Barnes, J. 2015 Scale and Agency: Climate Change and the Future of Egypt's Water. In *Climate Cultures: Anthropological Perspectives on Climate Change*. Barnes, J. and Dove, M. (eds). New Haven: Yale University Press, 127-145.
- Barnes, J. and Dove, M. 2015 Introduction. In *Climate Cultures: Anthropological Perspectives on Climate Change*. Barnes, J. and Dove, M. (eds). New Haven: Yale University Press, 1-21.
- Barnes, J. 2013 Who is a Water User? The Politics of Gender in Egypt's Water User Associations. In *Contemporary Water Governance in the Global South: Scarcity, Marketization, and Participation*. Harris, L, Goldin, J., and Sneddon, C. (eds). London: Routledge, 185-198.
- Barnes, J. 2012 Expanding the Nile's Watershed: The Science and Politics of Land Reclamation in Egypt. In *Water on Sand: Environmental Histories of the Middle East*. Mikhail, A. (ed). New York: Oxford University Press, 251-272.

Other Publications

- Barnes, J. 2025 Review of *The Mask: A History of Breathing Bad Air*, by B. Strasser and T. Schlich (Yale University Press, 2025). *Anthropology Book Forum*, September 2025.
- Barnes, J. 2024 Response to Book Review Forum on *Staple Security: Bread and Wheat in Egypt*. *AAG Review of Books*, 12(1): 48-51.
- Barnes, J. 2023 Review of *Water: A Critical Introduction*, by K. Meehan, N. Mirumachi, A. Loftus, and M. Akhter (John Wiley & Sons, 2023). *Water Alternatives Book Reviews*, October 2023.
- Barnes, J. 2023 The Ukraine War, Grain Trade and Bread in Egypt. *Middle East Report Online*, February 22.
- Barnes, J. 2022 Food, Sustainability, and Art: A Conversation with the Center for Genomic Gastronomy (Zack Denfeld, Cathrine Kramer, and Emma Conley), Designers of the LOCI Food Lab. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 49(6): 1138-1342.
- Barnes, J. 2022 Absences: Thematic Exclusions at a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference. *Hot Spots, Fieldsights, Cultural Anthropology website*, June 23, <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/absences-thematic-exclusions-at-a-united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change-conference>.
- Barnes, J. 2022 In Egypt, Where a Meal isn't Complete Without Bread, War in Ukraine is Threatening the Wheat Supply and Access to this Staple Food, *The Conversation*, March 22.
- Babül, E., Davis, M., Barnes, J. and Lubin, A. 2021 Racial Formations in the Middle East. *Middle East Report*, 299.
- Barnes, J. 2020 *Water in the Middle East: A Primer*. Middle East Research and Information Project.
- Barnes, J., Davis, M. and Stamatopoulou-Robbins, S. 2020 Nature and Politics. *Middle East Report*, 296.
- Barnes, J. 2019 Transnational Flows of Expertise and Seed in the Making of Egypt's Wheat. *Rockefeller Archive Center Research Reports*. October 7, <https://rockarch.issuelab.org>.
- Barnes, J. 2018 Overstating Climate Change in Egypt's Uprising. *Middle East Report Online*, October 11.
- Barnes, J. 2016 Gluten. *Theorizing the Contemporary, Cultural Anthropology website*, September 30, <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/gluten>.

- Barnes, J. 2016 Book review of *Andean Waterways: Resource Politics in Highland Peru* by Mattias Rasmussen (Uni of Washington Press, 2015). *Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute*, 22, 728-729.
- Barnes, J. 2016 Rifts and Bridges: Ruptures and Continuities in Human-Environment Interactions. In *Whose Anthropocene? Revisiting Dipesh Chakrabarty's "Four Theses."* Emmert, R. and Lekan, T. (eds). Munich: Rachel Carson Center, 41-46.
- Barnes, J., Farmer, T., McKee, E., Mol, Y. 2012 *Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility: A Handbook for Scholars and Teachers of the Middle East*. Part of the revision committee for the second edition of the handbook, which was initially published in 2006 by the Taskforce on Middle East Anthropology.
- Mol, Y., McKee, E., Farmer, T., and Barnes, J. 2012 Academic Freedom and the Middle East: Launching an Updated Handbook for Teaching and Research. *Anthropology News*, 53(9): 32.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 *Guggenheim Fellowship*, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.
- 2024 *USC Educational Foundation Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences 2024*, Office of the Provost, University of South Carolina
- 2024 *Book Award*, Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Society.
- 2024 *Book Award*, Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers
- 2023 Finalist, *PROSE Award*, Association of American Publishers
- 2023 Honorable Mention, *AAG 2022 Meridian Book Award for Outstanding Scholarly Work in Geography*, American Association of Geographers
- 2017-20 *Peter and Bonnie McCausland Faculty Fellowship*, University of South Carolina
- 2017-18 *Howard Fellowship*, George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation
- 2017 *Breakthrough Star Award*, University of South Carolina
- 2016 *James M. Blaut Award*, Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers
- 2015 *ACLS Fellowship*, American Council of Learned Societies
- 2013 *Junior Scholar Award*, Anthropology and Environment Society of the American Anthropological Association
- 2011-13 *Postdoctoral Fellowship*, Yale Climate & Energy Institute
- 2009 Finalist, *Roy A. Rappaport Graduate Student Award*, Anthropology and Environment Society of the American Anthropological Association
- 2004-10 *Sustainable Development Fellowship*, Columbia University
- 2003-04 *Evan Frankel Scholarship*, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
- 2002 *Summer Internship Fellowship*, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
- 2001-02 *Henry Fellowship*, Charles and Julia Henry Fund
- 2000 Proxime Accessit, *A J Herbertson Prize*, Oxford University
- 1998-00 *Academic Scholarship*, St Catherine's College, Oxford University

GRANTS

- 2024 *Cultural Anthropology Program Senior Research Award*, National Science Foundation
- 2023 *Post PhD Research Grant*, Wenner-Gren Foundation
- 2023 *Excel Grant*, University of South Carolina
- 2022 *Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Grant*, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, University of South Carolina
- 2022 *Beyond the Classroom Rolling Grant*, Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning, University of South Carolina
- 2021 *Beyond the Classroom Program Grant*, Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning, University of South Carolina

- 2020 *2020 Theme Semester Co-Curricular Programming Award*, College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Carolina
- 2017 *Provost Grant*, University of South Carolina
- 2017 *ASPIRE I Grant*, University of South Carolina (declined)
- 2015 *Rockefeller Grant-In-Aid*, Rockefeller Foundation
- 2015 *Faculty Research Grant*, Walker Institute of International and Area Studies, University of South Carolina
- 2012 *Wenner-Gren Engaged Anthropology Grant*, Wenner-Gren Foundation
- 2012 *Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, and Yale Climate & Energy Institute Grants* (for event on cultural responses to climate change featuring Paul Miller, Artist in Residence at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, co-organized with Michael Dove.)
- 2012 *Yale Climate & Energy Institute Workshop Fund, Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund, and Tropical Resources Institute Grants* (for workshop on the anthropology of climate change, co-organized with Michael Dove)
- 2008 *Wenner-Gren Dissertation Research Fellowship Fieldwork Grant*, Wenner-Gren Foundation
- 2005-06 *Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy Small Grant* (for seminar series, co-organized with Paige West), Columbia University
- 1999 *Henrietta Hutton Research Grant*, Royal Geographical Society

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Faculty, Department of Geography, University of South Carolina, Columbia. *The Elements, Global Food Politics, International Development and the Environment, Water as a Resource, Environmental Science and Policy, Environment and Society Seminar, Geography of the Middle East*, Fall 2013-

Part-time Faculty, Graduate Program in International Affairs, The New School for Social Research, New York. *Comparative Development*, Spring 2010.

Instructor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, New York. *Economic and Political Development Workshop*, Spring 2009.

Teaching Assistant, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, New York, *Introduction to International Development*, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2008.

Teaching Assistant, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Yale University, New Haven, *Land Mapping and Measurement*, Summer 2003.

INVITED LECTURES

- 2025 “The Politics of Water Vapor: Mold and Moisture in London Homes,” Medical Anthropology Seminar Series, University of Oxford, UK, October 28.
- 2024 “Staple Security: Bread and Wheat in Egypt,” Middle Eastern and North African Colloquium Series, University of Arizona, October 16.
- 2024 “Staple Security: Bread and Wheat in Egypt,” Writer Meets Readers Seminar Series, Department of Geography, London School of Economics and Political Science, May 20.
- 2024 “Staple Security: Bread and Wheat in Egypt,” Department of Geography, King’s College London, March 6.
- 2024 “Staple Security: Bread and Wheat in Egypt,” Seminar on Environment and Climate Change in the Middle East, University of Wisconsin-Madison, February 26, online.

- 2024 “Staple Security: Bread and Wheat in Egypt,” Seminar on Environment and Infrastructure in the Middle East and Beyond, SOAS, University of London, February 19.
- 2024 “Staple Security: Bread and Wheat in Egypt,” Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University, February 7.
- 2023 “Placing the Environment in Middle East Studies: Scale, Stories, and Everyday Life,” Keynote talk, British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Annual Conference, University of Exeter, UK, July 3-5.
- 2023 “Staple Security: Bread and Wheat in Egypt,” Department of Anthropology, Rice University, February 22.
- 2022 “Water Politics and Environmental Justice,” National Council for Geographic Education, online webinar, November 14.
- 2022 “Staple Security: Bread and Wheat in Egypt,” Department of Anthropology, University of Virginia, October 21.
- 2022 “Staple Security: Bread and Wheat in Egypt,” Institute for Middle East Studies, The George Washington University, Washington DC, October 20.
- 2022 “Bread, Politics, and Development,” Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, Washington DC, October 18.
- 2022 “The Politics of Bread in Egypt,” Carnegie Endowment for Peace, Washington DC, October 17.
- 2021 “The Politics of Irrigation and Taste of Security: Water and Bread in Egypt,” Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Rutgers University, online, February 17.
- 2020 “Staple Security: Wheat and Bread in Egypt,” UCL Anthropocene, University College London, online, December 8.
- 2020 “Researching Water, Climate Change, and Bread in the Middle East,” Middle East Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania, online, November 13.
- 2019 “Grain Circulations and Staple Security in Egypt,” Department of International and Area Studies, University of Oklahoma, Norman, October 30.
- 2019 “The Social Worlds of Bread in Cairo,” Sawyer Seminar on “Bread and Water: Access, Belonging, and Environmental Justice in the City,” Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, October 10.
- 2018 “Secure States: Wheat, Bread, and the Politics of Sufficiency in Egypt,” Summer School on “Governance at the Edge of the State: Materiality,” Ghent University, Belgium, September 12.
- 2018 “The Taste of Home: Baking Bread in Egypt,” Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles, May 21.
- 2017 “Seeding a Nation: Knowledge and Nation in the Making of Egypt’s Wheat.” Department of Geography, Kent State University, Ohio, March 3.

- 2016 “Staple Attachments: The Social Worlds of Bread in Cairo.” Development Sociology Seminar Series, Cornell University, October 21.
- 2016 “Commodities, Culture, and Citizenship: International Lessons in Natural Resources and Nationhood.” Environmental Citizenship Speaker Series, St Mary’s College of Maryland, April 14.
- 2015 “An Alternative View on Nile Basin Politics.” Panel for Nile Project Residency, Boston University, March 27.
- 2015 “The Everyday Politics of Water in Egypt.” Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, University of California, Irvine, January 29.
- 2015 “The Everyday Politics of Water in Egypt.” Center for Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, January 28.
- 2014 “Cultivating the Nile.” Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina, October 16.
- 2014 “Water and Politics in Egypt.” School of Public Health, University of South Carolina, September 17.
- 2012 “Cultivating the Nile: The Everyday Politics of Water in Egypt.” Center for Middle East Studies Colloquium, Yale University, February 22.
- 2011 “The Everyday Politics of Water.” Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, October 17.
- 2009 “Watering Egypt: Political Challenges of Water Management in an Arid Land.” Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University, October 20.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOP PAPERS

- 2026 “Sunbathing in Ozone: Living with Air Pollution in London,” in the panel *Knowing Air I*, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, San Francisco, March 17-21, forthcoming.
- 2025 “Cultures of Combustion: Wood Burners, Incense, and Air Pollution in London,” in the panel *Smoke Signals: Fire, Air, and Atmospheres of Pollution*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November 19-23.
- 2025 “Nitrogen Dioxide.” Invited paper in the workshop *Epidermal Architectures: Dwelling, Immunity, and the Common Air*, Oxford University, October 28.
- 2025 “Danger in the Air: Mold and the Politics of Moisture, Ventilation, and Domestic Heat in London,” in the panel *Air and Health*, Health, Environment, and Anthropology Conference, Durham, UK, April 23-24.
- 2025 “The UK Mold Crisis: The Politics of Moisture, Ventilation, and Heat in the Home,” in the panel *Health in Crisis*, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Detroit, March 23-28.
- 2025 Panelist for Author-Meets-Critics session on *Delta Futures* by Jason Cons, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Detroit, March 23-28.

- 2024 “Domestic Air: Sensorial Engagements with Indoor Air in London,” in the panel *The Environment Indoors: Home, Nature, Infrastructure*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Tampa, November 20-23.
- 2024 “Rethinking Food Security from the Americas to North Africa.” Invited presentation, co-presented with Megan Carney, National Council for Geographic Education Annual Conference, Tempe, October 18.
- 2024 “Inhospitable Homes: Navigating Poor Indoor Air Quality in London.” Invited paper in the workshop *Health and Homing in Hostile Times*, Queen Mary University of London, June 5.
- 2023 Discussant for the Jadaliyya workshop *New Perspectives on Environment, Capitalism, and Politics in the MENA Region*, online, October 13.
- 2023 Discussant for the Chatham House workshop *Transnational Conflict Supply Chains*, Minster Lovell, UK, September 14-15.
- 2023 “Circulations of Bread in Cairo: Labor, Care, and Ethics in Urban Ecologies” (coauthored with Mariam Taher). Invited paper in the workshop *Urban Ecologies of the Lower Nile Valley*, American University of Cairo and CEDEJ, Cairo, June 12-13.
- 2023 Panelist for Author-Meets-Critics session on *Water: A Critical Introduction* by Katie Meehan, Naho Mirumachi, Alex Loftus, and Majed Akhter, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Denver, March 24-27.
- 2022 “Walking with Bread in Egypt: Ethnographic Collaboration with a Research Assistant” (coauthored with Mariam Taher), in the panel *Fieldwork and Carework*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Seattle, November 9-13.
- 2022 “blk. Black Water,” in the panel *Water Pluralities*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Seattle, November 9-13.
- 2022 “Food, Water, and Security in Egypt.” Invited paper in the panel *The Future of Human Security*, Arab Center Washington DC Seventh Annual Conference, online, October 13.
- 2022 “The Politics of Bread and Wheat in Egypt.” Invited paper in the panel *Environmental Politics in the Middle East and North Africa*, Project on Middle East Political Science Annual Conference, online, June 10.
- 2021 “Method: Collaboration.” Invited paper, coauthored with Mariam Taher, in the workshop *Patchwork Ethnography*, Rice University, December 9-10.
- 2021 “Seeding Change: Nurseries and the Green Revolution.” Invited paper in the workshop *Cultural Processes of Development*, Indiana University, online, October 15-16.
- 2021 “On the Environment and Governance: Examining the Terms of the Debate.” Invited paper in the conference *Environmental Politics in the Middle East and North Africa*, Arab Reform Initiative, online, June 15.
- 2021 “Ethnography from a Distance? Fieldwork, Motherhood, and Working with a Research Assistant.” Invited paper in the workshop *Patchwork Ethnography: Attending to the Personal in Research Methods*, Rice University, online, February 4-5.

- 2020 “Becoming Baladi Bread: Egypt’s Bread Subsidy Program from the 1940s to the Present,” in the panel *Food, Culture, and Politics in the Middle East*, Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, online, October 17.
- 2020 Discussant for the panel *The Horizons and Limits of Care in the Middle East*, Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, online, October 7.
- 2020 “Silos and Security: Storing Wheat in Egypt.” Invited paper in the workshop *Infrastructures of Daily Life: Technology and Environment in the Middle East*, University of Southern California, online, March 11.
- 2019 “Precarious Staples: Bread, Wheat, and the Taste of Security in Egypt,” in the panel *Resource Security*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, November 20-24.
- 2018 “The Language of Plastic Bags: Everyday Interactions with Subsidized Bread in Cairo” (coauthored with Mariam Taher), in the panel *Boring Stuff? Mundane Matters in an Age of Liveliness*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, November 14-18.
- 2018 Discussant for the panel *Cultivating Futures: Imaginary Landscapes and the Agrarian Anthropocene*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, November 14-18.
- 2018 “Egypt’s Bread Subsidy.” Invited paper in the workshop *Food in the Global Welfare State: Consumer Subsidies and Social Protection*, Harvard University, November 9-10.
- 2018 “Homemade Bread in Egypt.” Invited paper in the workshop *Emergent Ecologies of the Middle East*, Amherst College, April 20-21.
- 2018 “Egypt’s Wheat: A Plant-Centered Approach to Food Security?” in the panel *Doing Vegetal Geography*, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, April 10-15.
- 2018 “Wheat Self-Sufficiency in Egypt” in the panel discussion *The Politics of Governing Grain*, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, April 10-15.
- 2017 “Importable Nationalism: The Circulation and Becoming of Egyptian Wheat,” in the panel *Port Ecologies*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC, November 29-December 3.
- 2017 “Seeding a Nation: Knowledge and Nature in the Making of Egypt’s Wheat.” Invited paper in the workshop *The Biosphere in the Middle East and North Africa: Global Currents in Place*, University of Virginia, April 28-29.
- 2017 “Bread Encounters: Social Geographies of a Staple Food in Cairo.” Blaut Plenary lecture of the Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Boston, April 5-9.
- 2017 “Knowledge, Nation, and Germplasm: Wheat Breeding in Egypt.” Invited paper in the workshop *Flesh and Flows: Environmental Temporalities and Expertise in the Middle East*, Harvard University, March 23-25.

- 2016 “Siloed: Uncovering the Political Infrastructures of Wheat in Egypt,” in the panel *Stuck in the Mud: When Commodities Come to a Halt*, Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers, Columbia, SC, November 28.
- 2016 “Percentages and Politics: Aspirations for Wheat Self-Sufficiency in Egypt,” in the Anthropology and Environment Society Invited Session, *4-Dimensional Landscape Models: Thinking, Modeling, and Living With Environments Across Time*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, November 25-27.
- 2016 Invited participant, *Thinkshop on Maintenance and Repair*, Department of Geography, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John’s, NL, September 28-29.
- 2016 “Dreams of Self-Sufficiency: The Cultural Politics of Wheat in Egypt.” Invited paper in the workshop *Climate Change and Capitalism: Inequality and Justice in an Overheated World*, University of Oslo, Norway, April 25-27.
- 2015 “What Does it Mean to “Have Awareness”? Knowledge Narratives in Egyptian Water Management,” in the panel *Governing Landscapes: Experts and the Politics of Environmental Management in the Contemporary Middle East*, Middle East Studies Association Meeting, Denver, November 21-24.
- 2015 Invited participant in the roundtable, *Meditating on Spaces: The Anthropology of the Environment in the MENA Region*, Middle East Studies Association Meeting, Denver, November 21-24.
- 2015 “Bread and Life: Shifting Patterns of Bread Consumption and the Making of Social Worlds in Rural Egypt,” in the panel *New Foods, New Worlds: How Shifting Tastes Reflect Social Change*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, November 18-22.
- 2015 Discussant for the panel *Borderscapes of Water*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, November 18-22.
- 2015 “Maintaining What? The Politics of Canal Maintenance in Egypt,” in the panel *Fast/Slow States: Time-Space, Technology, and Water Governance*, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Chicago, April 21-25.
- 2015 Author Comments in Author Meets Critics panel on *Cultivating the Nile: The Everyday Politics of Water in Egypt*, organized by Trevor Birkenholtz. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Chicago, April 13-20.
- 2015 Invited participant in workshop with Dipesh Chakrabarty, *After Nature: Questions of Justice in Chakrabarty’s Four Theses on Climate History*, University of South Carolina, February 27.
- 2014 “Polar Bears and the Nile: Water and Climate Change in Egypt,” in the Society for Cultural Anthropology Invited Session, *An Ethics for the Anthropocene*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC, December 2-7.
- 2014 Discussant for the panel *Aqueous Infrastructures*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC, December 2-7.
- 2014 “Nile Futures: Modeling the Impacts of Climate Change,” in the panel *Challenging Places: Cartographic and Affective Re-Mapping in Social and Environmental Projects*, Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington DC, November 22-25.

- 2014 “Modeling the River: Nile Flows and Climate Change,” in the panel *Mundane Mapping and Grounded Truths*, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Tampa, April 8-12.
- 2014 “Climate Change Knowledges,” in the panel *Citizenship, Identity, and Knowledge in the Anthropocene: A Panel Discussion*, Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Lexington, February 27-March 1.
- 2014 “The Politics of Prediction: Modeling Egypt’s Water Futures.” Invited paper in the workshop *Delimiting Egypt: Nationality, Land, and Bodies*, CUNY Graduate Center, February 21.
- 2013 “Knowing the Nile: Climate Change and the Future of Egypt’s Water,” in the panel *Technopolitical Futures: Transformations in States and Expertise*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 20-24.
- 2013 “The Politics of Prediction: Modeling Egypt’s Water Futures.” Invited paper in the workshop *Water and Anthropology*, Harvard University, April 26-28.
- 2012 “Negotiating Uncertainty: The Future of the Nile,” in the Anthropology and Environment Society Invited Session, *Prognosis Politics: Visions of Resource Futures*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 14-18.
- 2012 “The Politics of Prediction: Egypt’s Water Futures.” Invited paper in the workshop *Climate Change Anthropology*, Yale University, April 28-29.
- 2012 “Downstream Downscaling: Imagining Egypt’s Water Future,” in the panel *Scales of Analysis of Water Issues*, Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology and the Political Ecology Society, Baltimore, March 28-31.
- 2011 “Ten Sticks are Stronger than One: Promoting Participation in the Management of Egypt’s Water Resources,” in the panel *Examining Environments: New Themes in the Environmental Anthropology of the Middle East*, Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington DC, December 1-4.
- 2011 “Water Water Everywhere but Not a Drop to Drink: The False Promise of Virtual Water,” in the panel *Virtual Nature(s)*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Montreal, November 16-20.
- 2011 “The Nile’s Nadir: The Production of Scarcity.” Invited paper in the workshop *Water and the Environment*, Harvard University, April 29-May 1.
- 2011 Commentary on “Raw Milk, Raw Power: The Politics of Risk in Post-Socialist Europe” by Diana Mincyte. Agrarian Studies Seminar, Yale University, March 25.
- 2010 “Managing the Invisible: Drainage in Egypt’s Agricultural Lands,” in the panel *The Hydrosocial Cycle: Between Hydrology and Critical Social Science*, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Washington DC, April 14-18.
- 2009 “The Social Life of Scarcity: Watering Egypt’s Agricultural Lands,” in the panel *The Nature(s) of Contemporary Water Worlds*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December 2-6.

- 2009 “Practices of Participation: The Establishment of Water User Associations in Fayoum, Egypt,” in the *Rappaport Prize Panel*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December 2-6.
- 2009 “The Nile’s Nadir: The Politics of Water Scarcity in Egypt,” in the panel *Water and Politics in Egypt: Manipulating the Waters of Egypt from the 18th Century through to the Present*, Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Boston, November 21-24.
- 2009 “Irrigating the Desert, Deserting the Irrigated: Land Reclamation on Egypt’s Margins,” in the panel *Water Worlds II: Socio-Technologies of Water Access, Manipulation, and Monitoring*, Society for the Social Studies of Science Meeting, Washington DC, October 28 - November 1.
- 2009 “Watering the Desert: The Politics of Land Reclamation on Egypt’s Margins.” Invited paper in the workshop *Water and the Environment*, Harvard University, May 1-2.
- 2009 “Participation in Practice: The Establishment of Water User Associations in the Fayoum, Egypt,” in the panel *Spaces for Change? Decentralization, Participation, and Local Governance in MENA*, 10th Mediterranean Research Meeting, European University Institute, Florence, Italy, March 25-28.
- 2009 Commentary on “Middle Niger Niche Specialization: The Prehistorian’s Deep Time Dilemma” by Roderick McIntosh. Agrarian Studies Seminar, Yale University, February 13.
- 2008 “Drainage in Egypt: A Political Ecology of Excess.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 19-23.
- 2008 “Building Socio-Technical Worlds: The Establishment of Water User Associations in Fayoum, Egypt.” Invited paper in the workshop *New Inter-Disciplinary Perspectives on Water and Society in a World Perspective*, Harvard University, May 8-10.
- 2006 Commentary on “Conservation Is Our Government Now: The Politics of Ecology in Papua New Guinea” by Paige West (Duke University Press, 2006). Culture and Ecology Seminar, Columbia University, November 2.

SESSIONS ORGANIZED AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

- 2026 Co-Organizer with Deepti Chatti of three sessions, *Knowing the Air I-III*, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, San Francisco, March 17-21, forthcoming.
- 2025 Co-Organizer with Mary Mostafanezhad, *Smoke Signals: Fire, Air, and Atmospheres of Pollution*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November 19-23.
- 2025 Co-Organizer with Annie Claus, *Walkie Talkie*, Society for Cultural Anthropology Biennial Restorative Relations Conference, Stony Point, May 9-11, 2025.
- 2025 Organizer, *Air and Health*, Health, Environment, and Anthropology Conference, Durham, UK, April 23-24.
- 2024 Co-Organizer with Kristin Phillips, *The Environment Indoors: Home, Nature, Infrastructure*. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Tampa, November 20-23.

- 2022 Co-Organizer with Kate Centellas, *Fieldwork and Carework*, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Seattle, November 9-13.
- 2020 Organizer, *Food, Culture, and Politics in the Middle East*, Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, online, October 17.
- 2019 Co-Organizer with Kali Rubaii, *Resource Security*. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, November 20-24.
- 2018 Co-Organizer with Shaila Seshia-Galvin and Jonathan Padwe, *Boring Stuff? Mundane Matters in an Age of Liveliness*. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, November 14-18.
- 2017 Organizer, *Infrastructures of Nature and the Nature of Infrastructures*. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Boston, April 5-9.
- 2014 Co-Organizer with Caterina Scaramelli, *Aqueous Infrastructures*. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC, December 2-7.
- 2012 Organizer, *Prognosis Politics: Visions of Resource Futures*. Invited Session of the Anthropology and Environment Section for the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 14-18.
- 2011 Co-Organizer with Emily McKee, *Examining Environments: New Themes in the Environmental Anthropology of the Middle East*. Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington DC, December 1-4.
- 2011 Organizer, *Virtual Nature(s)*. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Montreal, November 16-20.
- 2010 Co-Organizer with Nikhil Anand, *Infrastructures of Circulation*. Executive Session for the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November 17-21.
- 2009 Organizer, Water and Politics in Egypt: Manipulating the Waters of Egypt from the 18th Century through to the Present. Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Boston, November 21-24.
- 2009 Co-Organizer with Samer Alatout of a series of four sessions:
Water Worlds I: Water Knowledges and Expertise.
Water Worlds II: Socio-Technologies of Water Access, Manipulation, and Monitoring.
Water Worlds III: Circulating Paradigms of Water Management.
Water Worlds IV: Hydro-Economics, Models, and Extremes.
 Society for the Social Studies of Science Meeting, Washington DC, October 28 - November 1.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Professional Associations

- Treasurer, Anthropology and Environment Society of the American Anthropological Association (2025-).
 At-Large Member, Anthropology and Environment Society of the American Anthropological Association (2017-19).
 Councilor-at-Large, Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers (2016-18).

Member of the Awards Committee, Anthropology and Environment Society of the American Anthropological Association Junior Scholar Award (2014).

Editorial Boards

Associate Deputy Editor, *Climatic Change* (2024-).

Editorial Committee Member, *Middle East Research and Information Project* (2018-2024).

International Advisory Board, *Journal of Peasant Studies* (2021-).

Coeditor, Book Reviews Section, *Journal of Peasant Studies* (2018-21).

Editorial Board Member, *Water Resources and Rural Development* (2015-18).

Peer Review

Funding proposal reviewer for the NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences Program, NSF Cultural Anthropology Program, NSF Science, Technology, and Society Program, NSF Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences Program, European Research Council, UK National Environmental Research Council, Swiss National Science Foundation, Fund for Scientific Research in Belgium, and New Zealand Antarctic Research Institute.

NSF Review Panel, Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences, 2021.

Peer reviewer for *American Anthropologist*; *Cultural Anthropology*; *American Ethnologist*; *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*; *Economic Anthropology*; *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*; *Progress in Human Geography*; *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*; *Journal of Peasant Studies*; *Limn*; *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*; *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*; *Geoforum*; *Distinktion: Scandinavian Journal of Social Theory*; *Science as Culture*; *Human Ecology*; *Environment and Society: Advances in Research*; *Gastronomica*; *Research in Economic Anthropology*; *Social Studies of Science*; *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*; *Science, Technology & Human Values*; *Development and Change*; *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*; *Nature Climate Change*; *Weather, Climate, and Society*; *Social and Cultural Geography*; *Environment and History*; *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society*; *International Journal of the Commons*; *Sustainability*; *Geographical Review*; *WIREs Water*; *Journal of Agrarian Change*; *Regional Environmental Change*; *Land Use Policy*; *Water Policy*; *Archives of Agronomy and Soil Science*; *Agriculture*.

Book manuscript reviewer for Yale University Press and University of California Press.

University Service

Committee on Admissions (2025-28).

Top Scholar Mentor (2025-26).

College of Arts and Sciences Budget Committee (2022-23).

Mentor, Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program (2021, 2022, 2023).

Director, Islamic World Studies Program (2021-23).

Assistant Director, Global Studies Program (2019-21).

Core Faculty, Global Studies Program (2018-21).

Steering Committee, College of Arts and Sciences Theme Semester (2019-20).

Review Panel, ASPIRE-II Integration Grants (2019).

Top Scholar Mentor (2017-18).

Review Panel, SPARC Graduate Research Grants (2015-16).

Departmental Service

Program Lead, Environment and Sustainability, School of Earth, Ocean, and Environment (2024-25).
Chair of Diversity Committee, School of Earth, Ocean, and Environment (2020-23).
Chair of Geography Awards Committee (2022-23).
Chair of Geography Peer Teaching Review Committee (2020-22).
Chair of Environmental Studies Program Revision Committee (2019).
Geography Department Scribe (2016-17, 2018-19).
Environment and Sustainability Undergraduate Committee (2015-20).
Undergraduate Advising in Environmental Studies and Science (2013-23).
Geography Peer Teaching Review Committee (2019-20, fall 2025).
Geography Colloquium Coordinator (2017-18, 2022-23).
Geography Awards Committee (2016-17, 2024-25).
Geography Curriculum Committee (2013-16, 2020-21, 2024-25).

ADVISING**Committee Chair**

Liz Anderson, MA Environmental Management, University of South Carolina
Patrick McKenzie, MA Geography, University of South Carolina (graduated)
Alice Arnold, MA Geography, University of South Carolina (graduated)
Roxanne Lenzo, MA Environmental Management, University of South Carolina (graduated)

Committee Member

Eleni Econopouly, PhD Geography, University of South Carolina
Nelson Kowu, PhD Geography, University of South Carolina
Meg Hicks, PhD Anthropology, University of South Carolina
Teresa Norman, MA Environmental Management, University of South Carolina (graduated)
Holly Smith, PhD Geography, University of South Carolina (graduated)
Daniel Abrahams, PhD Geography, University of South Carolina (graduated)
Kwame Owusu-Daaku, PhD Geography, University of South Carolina (graduated)
Bri Farber, PhD Anthropology, University of South Carolina (graduated)
Alex Iannone, MA Environmental Management, University of South Carolina (graduated)

Undergraduate Honors Theses

Hannah Meredith, thesis advisor (completed)
Julia Caine and Kelsey Collingsworth, thesis advisor (completed)
Patrick McKenzie, second reader (completed)
William Gulker, second reader (completed)

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Classical Arabic (advanced) and Egyptian and Syrian dialects (fluent).

MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Geographers; American Anthropological Association