

United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture Project: <i>Flood Risk in Context: Insurance and Risk Response in Flood-Prone Communities</i> Primary investigator. Amount: \$171,000	
Independent Research Fund Denmark Project: <i>The Emergence of the Environmental State under Authoritarianism (China, Vietnam and Beyond)</i> Co-investigator. Amount: €497,000	2020-2023
WRI Coordinated Call for Research & Outreach New York State Water Resources Institute Project: <i>Equity in Flood Insurance Access in a Changing National Flood Insurance Program</i> Primary investigator. Amount: \$34,000	2021
Project: <i>Flood Preparedness and Insurance Practices in Upstate New York Communities: Engaged Research</i> Primary investigator. Amount: \$21,872	2021
Project: <i>Understanding Flood Risk Perception, Response, and Flood Insurance Practices in Troy & Kingston</i> Primary investigator. Amount: \$41,263	2020
Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability Fellows National Science Foundation. Project: <i>Interacting Effects of Public Policy and Cash Crop Expansion on Forest Conservation</i> . Principal Investigator. Primary investigator. Amount: \$443,935.	2014-2018
East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes National Science Foundation, American Society for Engineering Education	2010
Rural Sociological Society Dissertation Research Award Rural Sociological Society	2010
Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship Social Science Research Council	2009
Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship National Science Foundation	2007-2011
 <i>INTERNAL FUNDING</i>	
Environmental Defense Fund – Cornell Atkinson Center Impact Grant Project: <i>Public Risk Pooling: Opportunities to Drive Climate Adaptation</i> . Co-PI	2024
Cornell Center for the Social Sciences Small Grant Project: <i>Understanding Household Experiences and Inequities in Wind and Flood Insurance Coverage</i> . Primary investigator	2023
Polson Institute Signature Strengths Program Project: <i>Unequal Exposures: A Multi-Hazard Review of Environmental Inequality</i> . Primary investigator	2022
Rapid Response Grant. <i>Cross-Cutting Risk Responses: Flood Risk in COVID-19 Context</i> Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future & Cornell Center for Social Sciences. Primary investigator	2020
CCSS Faculty Fellowship. Cornell Center for the Social Sciences, Cornell University	2020
Innovation Grant. <i>Managing Disease in China's Changing Apple Industry: Farmers, Landscapes, and Pathogen Population Dynamics</i> Cornell China Center, Cornell University Primary investigator. Amount: \$109,000	2019
ISS Small Grant Institute for the Social Sciences, Cornell University	2018
Linkage Grant Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in Southwest China IGERT, UW.	2011
Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship Center for East Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2009
Evelyn Crowe Travel Scholarship Department of Rural Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2008
University Fellowship	2007

Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison	
Alumni Incentive Internship Grant	2006
School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan	
CCS Research Fellowship	2006
Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan	
International Institute Individual Fellowship	2006
International Institute, University of Michigan	

PUBLICATIONS

* indicates student coauthor

ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

1. **John A. Zinda**, Bryce Vitulli*, Shorna Allred, David Kay, Sharon Tennyson, Kristen Hychka, Jessica Kuonen, Jesenia Laureano, Alex Pennington, and Keith Tidball. 2025. Who Purchases Flood Insurance, and Why? Evidence from the Hudson Valley. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* 124(15): 105472.
2. Foster, Kathryn*, **Zinda, John A.**, Tennyson, Sharon, & Kay, David L. 2025. Trends in Flood Insurance Take-up: Evidence From New York State. *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy*, 16(2):e70009.
3. Jessica D. Ulrich-Schadt†, **John A. Zinda**†, Hua Qin, David Matarrita-Cascante, Jennifer E. Givens, and Chuntian Lu. 2024. Unveiling Perspectives and Insights: A Survey of Environmental and Natural Resource Sociologists and Social Scientists. *Society & Natural Resources* 37(3):428-441.
†These two authors shared first authorship.
4. Liang, Wenyuan*, Bas Arts, **John A. Zinda**, and Jiayun Dong. 2024. Justice and Injustice under Authoritarian Environmentalism: Investigating Tensions between Forestland Property Rights and Environmental Conservation in China. *Forest Policy and Economics* 160:103144.
5. **Zinda, John A.**, Ziyu Zhao*, James Zhang*, Lindy B. Williams, David L. Kay, and Sarah M. Alexander*, and Libby Zemaitis. 2023. How Homeownership, Race, and Social Connections Influence Flood Preparedness Measures: Evidence from 2 Small U.S. Cities. *Environmental Sociology* 9(3):284-300.
6. **Zinda, John A.** 2023. Unpacking Authoritarian Environmental Governance: Gauging Authoritarian Elaboration in China and Beyond. *Sociology of Development* 9(2): 195-216.
7. Li, Yifei and **John A. Zinda**. 2023. Authoritarian Environmental Governance in East Asia: 7 Theses. *Sociology of Development* 9(2):109-130.
8. Yuanyuan Zhu*, **John A. Zinda**, Qin Liu, Yukuan Wang, Bin Fu, and Ming Li. 2023. Accessibility of Primary Schools in Rural Areas and the Impact of Topography: A Case Study in Nanjiang County, China. *Land* 12(6):1134.
9. **Zinda, John A.** and Amit Anshumali*. 2022. How Gender Dynamics Shape Off-Farm Work in Upland Southwest China. *Rural Sociology* 87(4):1244-1273.
10. **Zinda, John A.**, James Zhang*, Lindy B. Williams, David L. Kay, and Sarah M. Alexander*, and Libby Zemaitis. 2022. Different Hazards, Different Responses: Assessments of Flooding and COVID-19 Risks among Upstate New York Residents. *Socius* 8:23780231211069215.

11. Zhuang, Hao*, **John A. Zinda**, and James P. Lassoie. 2022. 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Power': A 25-Year Strategic Advocacy Voyage of an Environmental NGO in China. *The Journal of Environment & Development* 31(4): 331-351.
12. **Zinda, John A.**, Lindy B. Williams, David L. Kay, and Sarah M. Alexander*. 2021. Flood Risk Perception and Responses among Urban Residents in the Northeastern United States. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* 64: 102528.
13. Alonzo, Michael, Jamon Van Den Hoek, Paulo J. Murillo-Sandoval, Cara E. Steger, and **John A. Zinda**. 2021. Mapping and quantifying land cover dynamics using dense remote sensing time series with the user-friendly pyNITA software. *Environmental Modelling and Software* 145:105179.
14. **Zinda, John A.** and Jun He. 2020. Ecological Civilization in the Mountains: How Walnuts Boomed and Busted in Southwest China. *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 47(5):1052-1076.
15. **Zinda, John A.** 2020. Regenerating Scholarly Ecologies: Thoughts on Seeing the Forest for the Trees. *Society & Natural Resources* 22(9):1162-1168.
16. Kuras, Evan R.*, Paige S. Warren, **John A. Zinda**, Myla F. J. Aronson, Sarel Cilliers, Mark A. Goddard, Charles H. Nilon, and Richelle Winkler. 2020. Urban Socioeconomic Inequality and Biodiversity Often Converge, but Not Always: A Global Meta-Analysis. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 198:103799.
17. Ke, Shuifa, Ruhe Yan*, and **John A. Zinda**. 2020. Designating Tree Crops as Forest: Land Competition and Livelihood Effects Mediate Tree Crops Impact on Natural Forest Cover in South China. *Land Use Policy* 96:104702.
18. **Zinda, John A.** and Shrey Kapoor*. 2019. Metabolic Fractures: How Household Livelihood Practices Differentiate Agricultural Input Use in Southwest China. *Journal of Rural Studies* 71:1-12.
19. **Zinda, John A.** and Zhiming Zhang. 2019. Explaining Heterogeneous Afforestation Outcomes: How Community Officials and Households Mediate Tree Cover Change in China. *World Development* 122: 385-398.
20. Li, Wenqing*, **John A. Zinda**, and Zhiming Zhang. 2019. Does the 'Returning Farmland to Forest Program' Drive Community-Level Changes in Landscape Patterns in China? *Forests* 10(10):933.
21. **Zinda, John A.** and Zhiming Zhang. 2018. Stabilizing Forests and Communities: Accommodative Buffering within China's Collective Forest Tenure Reform. *The China Quarterly* 235: 828-848.
22. **Zinda, John A.** and Zhiming Zhang. 2018. Land Tenure Legacies, Household Life-Cycles, and Livelihood Strategies in Upland China. *Rural Sociology* 83(1): 51-80.
23. **Zinda, John A.**, Yifei Li, and John Liu. 2018. China's Summons for Environmental Sociology. *Current Sociology*, 66(6): 867-885.
24. **Zinda, John A.**, Christine J. Trac, and Stevan Harrell. 2017. Dual-Function Forests in the Returning Farmland to Forest Program and the Flexibility of Environmental Policy in China. *Geoforum* 78: 119-132.
25. **Zinda, John A.** 2017. Tourism Dynamos: Selective Commodification and Developmental Conservation in China's Protected Areas. *Geoforum* 78: 141-152.

26. Chen, Jia-Ching, **John A. Zinda**, and Emily Yeh. 2017. Recasting the Rural: State, Society and Environment in Contemporary China. *Geoforum* 78: 83-88.
27. Zhang, Zhiming, **John A. Zinda**, and Wenqing Li*. 2017. Policy, Practices, and Land Cover Change in Chinese Villages: Explaining Community-Level Variation under the Returning Farmland to Forest Program, *Land Use Policy* 64: 245–257.
28. Lazos, Elena, **John A. Zinda**, Christine Negra, Aoife Bennett-Curry, Gillian Bloomfield, Patricia Balvanera, and Catherine Lindell. 2016. Stakeholders and Tropical Reforestation: Challenges, Tradeoffs, and Strategies in Dynamic Environments. *Biotropica* 48(6): 900-914.
29. **Zinda, John A.**, Jianmei Yang, Ximing Xue, and Hai Cheng 2014. Varying Impacts of Tourism Participation on Natural Resource Use in Communities in Southwest China. *Human Ecology* 42(5): 739-751.
30. **Zinda, John A.** 2012. Hazards of Collaboration: Local State Co-optation of a New Protected Area Model in Southwest China. *Society & Natural Resources* 25(4): 384-399.
31. Van Den Hoek, Jamon, Jill Baumgartner, Elena Doucet-Beer, Tim Hildebrandt, Brian Robinson, and **John A. Zinda**. 2012. Understanding the Challenges and Rewards of Social-Ecological Research in China. *Society & Natural Resources* 25(12):1324-1329.
32. Nelson, Fred, Elisa Collins, Alain Frechette, Cynthia Koenig, Mosé Jones-Yellin, Brihannala Morgan, Gita Ramsay, Gautam Rao, Claudia Rodriguez, Zewdie Jotte Tulu, Cristy Watkins, and **John A. Zinda**. 2008. Preservation or Degradation: Communal Management and Ecological Change in a Southeast Michigan Forest. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 17(1): 2757-2722.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES

1. **Zinda, John A.** 2018. Managing the Anthropocene: The Labour of Environmental Regeneration. *Made in China Journal* 3(4): 62-67.

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. **Zinda, John A.** 2020. Political Ecologies of State Land Management. Pp. 315–30 in *The Cambridge Handbook of Environmental Sociology*. Vol. 1, edited by J. Keller, K. Legun, M. Bell, and M. Carolan. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Refereed.)
2. **Zinda, John A.** Making National Parks in Yunnan: Shifts and Struggles within the Ecological State. Chapter 4 in Yeh, Emily and Coggins, Christopher, eds. 2014. *Mapping Shangrila: Contested Landscapes in the Sino-Tibetan Borderlands*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. (Refereed.)
3. Green, Gary Paul and **John A. Zinda**. Rural Development Theory. Chapter 1 in Green, Gary Paul, ed. 2013. *Handbook of Rural Development*. Cheltenham, UK, and Northampton, Mass.: Edward Elgar.

REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS

1. Kousky, Carolyn, **John A. Zinda**, Hannah K. Friedrich*, Tallant Burley, and Kyunghhee Kang*. 2025. [Driving Loss Reduction Through State-Created Residual Insurance Markets](#). Environmental Defense Fund.
2. Vitulli, Bryce,* **John A. Zinda**, Sharon Tennyson, David Kay, Shorna Allred, Kristen Hychka, Jessica Kuonen, Jesenia Laureano, Alex Pennington, Keith Tidball. 2024. [How Hudson River Homeowners View Flood Insurance](#). *Global Development Impact Brief #3*. Ithaca: Cornell University.

3. Nocua Tole, Joseph S.*, I. T. Blair*, James Zhang*, **John A. Zinda**, Libby Zemaitis, Lindy B. Williams, David L. Kay, and Sarah M. Alexander*. 2021. Responding to Risk from Floods and COVID-19: Beyond Partisanship, Through Experience. *Research & Policy Brief Series in Global Development*. Ithaca: Cornell University.
4. CONVERGE COVID-19 Working Groups for Public Health and Social Sciences Research. 2020. *Extreme Weather and Geohazards in the Time of COVID-19: A Social Science Research Agenda*. Boulder: Natural Hazards Center.
5. **Zinda, John A.** 2010. Final Evaluation of UNESCO World Heritage Centre and The Nature Conservancy project, *Promoting Conservation through Sustainable Local Tourism Development at World Heritage Sites: Demand Driven Assessments and Engaging the Private Sector*.

BOOK REVIEWS

1. **Zinda, John A.** 2023. Review of *Effective Advocacy: Lessons from East Asia's Environmentalists* – by Mary Alice Haddad. *The Journal of Development Studies* 59(10):1631-1633.
2. **Zinda, John A.** 2020. Review of *Rules without Rights: Land, Labor, and Private Authority in the Global Economy* – by Tim Bartley. *International Sociology* 35(2):185-188.
3. **Zinda, John A.** 2017. Review of *China's Peasant Agriculture and Rural Society: Changing Paradigms of Farming* - by Jan Douwe van der Ploeg and Ye Jingzhong. *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 44(5):1098-1101.
4. **Zinda, John A.** 2014. Review of *China's Disappearing Countryside: Towards Sustainable Land Governance for the Poor* - by Yongjun Zhao. *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 41(3):437-440.
5. **Zinda, John A.** 2010. Review of *Chen Village: Revolution to Globalization* - by Anita Chan, Richard Madsen, and Jonathan Unger. *Rural Sociology* 75:528-530.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE AND PANEL ORGANIZING

Rolling Out Ecological Civilization: The Mixed Promise of Rural Transformations in China. Panel, co-organized with Tami Blumenfeld. Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 17 March 2017.

Recasting the Rural: China's Transformation in a Global Context. Conference and themed journal issue workshop. Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, 12-13 February 2015.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

(with Hannah Friedrich) Understanding Varied Household Experiences with Wind and Flood Insurance Coverage. Natural Hazards Center Researchers' Meeting, Broomfield, Colorado, 17 July 2025.

(with Kathryn Foster and Sharon Tennyson) Mitigation, Risk, and Equity: Evaluating the National Flood Insurance Program's Risk Rating Methodology's impacts on New York's Vulnerable Communities. Population Association of America 2025 Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., 12 April 2025.

(with Osita Achufusi, Joyce Armstrong, and Stephanie Gallent) Unequal Exposures: A Multi-Hazard Review of Distributional Environmental Inequity. Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin, 26 July 2024.

A Risk Crisis Atop a Housing Crisis? Explaining Uneven Flood Insurance Take-up Over Time. Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Burlington, Vermont, 3 August 2023.

(with Kathryn Foster) Storms, Policy, Inequity: What accounts for uneven flood insurance take-up over time? Eastern Sociological Society Conference 2023, Baltimore, Maryland, 24 February 2023.

(with Mengzheng Yao) Perennial Shifts: Fruit and Nut Trees in China's Uneven Agrarian Transformations. Dislocation, Development and Democracy: Sociology of Development Virtual Pre-Conference, 5 August 2022.

(with Ziyu Zhao) A Double Disparity? Homeownership, Flood Experience, and Household Protective Measures. 47th Annual Natural Hazards Workshop Researchers Meeting, 14 July 2022.

Flood Risk Perception and Responses among Urban Residents in the Northeastern United States. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, 10 August 2021.

Varieties of Authoritarian Environmentalism: Authoritarian Ecomodernism and Constructing Ecological Civilization in China. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, 10 August 2020.

Taking Hold of the Anthropocene: Authoritarian Ecomodernism and China's Project of Constructing Ecological Civilization. Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, 23 March 2019.

Explaining Heterogeneous Afforestation Outcomes: How Community Officials and Households Mediate Tree Cover Change in China. Sustainability & Development Conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 11 November 2018.

(with Shrey Kapoor) Metabolic Fractures: How Household Livelihood Practices Differentiate Agricultural Input Use in Southwest China. Obstacles to Development: 7th Annual Sociology of Development Conference, Urbana, Illinois, 20 October 2018.

Ecological Civilization in the Mountains: Discourse and Practice in China's Walnut Boom and Bust. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 12 August 2018.

Households, Communities, and Landscapes: Spatial Distribution of Land Cover Change in Southwest China. International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Snowbird, Utah, 19 June 2018.

Too Dear to Eat: The Changing Place of the Walnut in Northwest Yunnan. Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 17 March 2017.

The Double Game: Formal Designation and Informal Practice within China's Collective Forest Tenure Reform. International Studies Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, 25 February 2017.

Community Characters: How Local Officials Mediate Development and Environmental Change in China. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, Washington, 22 August 2016.

How Community Officials Mediate Policy Implementation, Community Development, and Environmental Change in Southwest China. Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Seattle, Washington, 2 April 2016.

There's More Going On: Explaining Local Variation in China's Conversion of Cropland to Forest Program. XIV World Forestry Congress, Durban, South Africa, 8 September 2015.

On-the-Ground Surprises in China's Collective Forest Tenure Reform. Land and Water Conference. Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, 5 September 2015.

Dual-Function Forests and the Flexibility of Environmental Policy in China. Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers. Chicago, Illinois, 23 April 2015.

Wrangling with Weak Institutions: Communities, the State, and Divergent Landscape Transformations. SocDev 2015: Conference of the Section on Development of the American Sociological Association, Providence, Rhode Island, 14 March 2015.

Ecological and Social Impacts of Dual-Purpose Afforestation: Initial Explorations. Conference of the Ecological Society of China, Shenyang, Liaoning, China, 18 September 2014.

Moral Economies of Tourism and Environment in Himalayan Southwest China. Himalayan Studies Conference 2014, New Haven, Connecticut, 15 March 2014.

Impacts on Farm Activities of Varied Participation in Nature Tourism: Findings from Two Protected Areas in China. Rural Sociological Society 2013 Annual Meeting. New York, New York, 8 August 2013.

Impacts of Tourism on Rural Livelihoods and Inequality Depend on How Tourism Is Organized: Findings from Two Protected Areas in China. Conference of the Development Section of the American Sociological Association. Charlottesville, Virginia, 2 November 2012.

How Tourism Affects Resource Use and Inequality: Evidence from Two Protected Areas in China. Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences Conference. Santa Clara, California, 22 June 2012.

How Growth Coalitions Coalesce around Nature Tourism in China. Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers. New York, New York, 24-28 February 2012.

Taking an Idea and Running with It: How Tourism Development Affects Resident Welfare and Biodiversity Conservation in Southwest China. Rethinking Development: Debating New Directions in a Time of Crises. Ithaca, New York, 10-12 November 2011.

Changing Places: Conservation Organizations and the State in Southwest China. Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences Annual Meeting. Madison, Wisconsin, 8-12 October 2009.

Migrant Workers, Rural Safety Nets, and Social Hierarchies in Jiangxi Villages. Breaking Down Chinese Walls: The Changing Faces of Labor and Employment in China. Ithaca, New York, 26-28 September 2008.

Migrant Cosmopolitanism and Change in Rural China. Beijing International Conference on Environmental Sociology. Beijing, China, 29 June-1 July 2007.

INVITED TALKS

Flood Insurance across New York State: Risk, Cost, and Resilience. New York State Housing and Community Renewal Policy Bites series, 14 January 2026.

Understanding Varied Household Experiences with Wind and Flood Insurance Coverage. Center for Insurance and Policy Research Regulatory Research Symposium, National Association of Insurance Commissioners and National Insurance Producer Registry 2025 Insurance Summit, Kansas City, Missouri, 17 September 2025.

Understanding Rural Livelihoods and Forest Change in Southwest China (农村生产生活与#森林变化#中国西南部案例对比研究). Nanjing Forestry University, Nanjing, China, 7 April 2025.

Understanding Rural Livelihoods and Forest Change in Southwest China (农村生产生活与#森林变化#中国西南部案例对比研究). Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, Fuzhou, China, 4 April 2025.

Flood Insurance: What People Think About It, Who Gets It, and Who Cares. Department of Environmental Studies, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, 20 October 2023.

Flood Risks and Flood Insurance: Impacts for Property Owners and Assessors. New York State Assessors Association Summer School, 17 July 2023.

Equitable Access in a Changing National Flood Insurance Program: Trends across New York Counties. Boston College Environmental Sociology Working Group, 14 April 2023.

Equitable Access in a Changing National Flood Insurance Program: Trends across New York Counties. New York State Water Resources Institute Speaker Series. Cornell University, 9 February 2023.

What are city residents thinking and doing about flooding? Responses from Troy and Kingston. Waterfront Resilience Partners Spring Meeting, 26 April 2021.

Care, Crops, and Cash: Women's and Men's Off-Farm Work Decisions in Upland Southwest China. Rural Sociology Lecture Series, Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education. The Pennsylvania State University, 23 April 2021.

Varieties of Authoritarian Environmentalism: Tracing Shifting Environmental Governance in China. *Panel: Disaster Capitalism, Ecofascism, and Ecoauthoritarianism*. UMass Amherst History Department Feinberg Series. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 4 March 2021.

Varieties of Authoritarian Environmentalism: Authoritarian Ecomodernism and China's Project of Constructing Ecological Civilization. University of Kentucky, 15 October 2020.

Understanding Rural Livelihoods and Land Change in Southwest China (中国西南部农村生产生活与土地变化研究). Zhaotong College, Zhaotong, China, 20 October 2019.

Ecological and Social Impacts of Tourism and Forest Recovery: The Importance of Multilevel Comparison (旅游开发与森林回复的生态、社会经济效益:多层次对比的必要性). Ecotourism Faculty, Southwest Forestry University, Kunming, China, 18 December 2014.

Transforming the Countryside: Land Management Programs, Communities, Livelihoods, and Landscapes (农村转变:土地管理工程、社区、生产生活方式和景观生态). Institute of Ecology and Geobotany, Yunnan University, Kunming, China, 13 June 2014.

MENTORING

POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS

Maia Dedrick (2022-2023)

Juliet Lu (2021-2022, secondary mentor)

Updated 17 April 2026

Jesse Rodenbiker (2020-2021, secondary mentor)

Tyler Harlan (2018-2019)

GRADUATE STUDENTS, COMMITTEE CHAIR

Kathryn Foster (PhD, Development Studies, current)
Miaomiao Mira Qi (PhD, Development Studies, 2025)

Mengzheng Yao (PhD, Development Sociology, 2025)
Yulin Hong (MPS, Natural Resources and the Environment, 2024)

GRADUATE STUDENTS, COMMITTEE MEMBER

Kiera Crowley (PhD, Soil & Crop Sciences, current)
Liting Ding (PhD, Anthropology, current)
James Goetz (PhD, Natural Resources, current)
Álvaro Padilla-Pozo (PhD, Sociology, current)
Hamidullah Nikzad (MS, Natural Resources and the Environment, 2026)
Marley Bonacquist-Currin (PhD, Natural Resources, 2025)

Sidney Madsen (PhD, Development Sociology, 2024)
Ian Bellows (MA, Asian Studies, 2024)
Shumeng Li (PhD, Sociology, 2023)
Yadi Wang (MS, City & Regional Planning, 2022)
Sonia Ahmad (PhD, City & Regional Planning, 2022)
Hao Zhuang (PhD, Natural Resources, 2020)
Luna Lee (MPS, International Agriculture & Rural Development, 2019)

VISITING SCHOLARS

Jiayun Dong (Visiting Scholar, Nanjing Forestry University)
Gvantsa Gverdtsiteli (Doctoral Student, Roskilde University)

Yuanyuan Zhu (Doctoral Student, Institute of Mountain Hazards and the Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences)
Ruhe Yan (Doctoral Student, Renmin University)

TEACHING

GRADUATE COURSES

Fundamentals of Environmental Sociology Spring 2014, 2018, 2020, 2024
Risk and Disaster (mixed graduate, undergraduate) Spring 2019, 2022, 2026

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Environmental Sociology Spring 2017-2024, 2026
Spatial Thinking, GIS, and Related Methods Fall 2018, Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2024
Introduction to Community & Environmental Sociology Fall 2012 (TA), Spring 2013 (Instructor)
Ethnic and Racial Movements in the United States (Teaching Assistant) Spring 2012
Survey of Sociology (Teaching Assistant) Fall 2011

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Rural Sociological Society
Natural Resources Research Interest Group; Population Research Interest Group
American Sociological Association
Section on Environmental Sociology, Sociology of Development Section

JOURNALS REVIEWED FOR

Agriculture and Human Values (2 articles)	Global Environmental Change (1)
Ambio (2)	Himalaya (1)
American Journal of Sociology (1)	Human Ecology (2)
Annals of the American Association of Geographers (1)	International Forestry Review (1)
Anthropocene Coasts (1)	International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction (2)
Asian Ethnicity (1)	Journal of Agrarian Change (1)
Biodiversity and Conservation (1)	Journal of Development Studies (Journal für Entwicklungspolitik) (1)
Biological Conservation (1)	Journal of Environmental Planning and Management (1)
Canadian Journal of Development Studies (1)	The Journal of Peasant Studies (2)
The China Quarterly (1)	Journal of Risk and Insurance (1)
Climatic Change (1)	Land Use Policy (4)
Conservation Letters (1)	Plant Diversity (1)
Current Anthropology (1)	Population and Environment (2)
Ecology & Society (1)	Rural Sociology (2)
Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space (1)	Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research (1)
Environmental and Sustainability Indicators (1)	Sociology of Development (2)
Environmental Management (1)	Socius (1)
Environmental Politics (2)	Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers (1)
Eurasian Geography and Economics (3)	World Development (4)
Frontiers in Climate (1)	
Gender & Society (1)	
Geoforum (7)	

Total: 63 articles (many including multiple rounds of review)

AD HOC PROPOSAL REVIEW

REU Sites: Local Governance and Public Welfare in Northwest China, National Science Foundation. 2010

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Professionally fluent in Mandarin Chinese; converse, write, and conduct research in Chinese.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Associate Editor, <i>Rural Sociology</i>	2025-present
Nominations Committee Member, Rural Sociological Society	2025-present
Co-Chair, Natural Resources Research Interest Group, Rural Sociological Society	2022-2024
Policy and Research Committee Chair, ASA Section on Environmental Sociology	2018-2020

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Director, Polson Institute for Global Development	2025-present
Associate Director, Cornell Center for Conservation Social Sciences	2026-present
Extension and Translational Research Task Force, School of Global Development & the Environment	2026
External member, faculty search committee, Communications	2025
Research Evaluation, Faculty Tenure Review, Global Development	2025
Cornell Population Center Frank H.T. Rhodes Postdoctoral Fellowship search committee	2024
Research Evaluation, Faculty Third-Year Review, Global Development	2024
Facilitator, Making Time to Write Faculty Writing Program	2022-2024, 2025-2026
Steering Committee, Polson Institute for Global Development	2016-2019; 2022-2024
Chair, faculty search committee, Global Development	2023-2024
Global Development Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee	2021-2022

Environment & Sustainability Curriculum Committee	2019-2020, 2021-2022
Environmental Policy & Governance Concentration Chair	
Faculty Coordinator, Development Studies Graduate Field Brown Bag Seminar	2019-2022
Development Sociology Graduate Field Admissions Committee	2022
Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences	2021-2022
Fulbright Committee, East Asia Program	2018, 2021, 2023
Cornell University Faculty Senate	2017, 2019, 2021
Faculty Fellow, Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability	2016-Present
International Professor, CALS International Programs	2016-Present
Graduate Associate, Center for Culture, History, and the Environment, UW-Madison	2009-2013
Teaching Assistants Association, American Federation of Teachers Local 3220	2011-2013
Graduate Student Department Meeting Representative, Sociology, UW-Madison	2007-2008

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER WORK

Tompkins County Environmental Management Council	
Voting Member at Large	2024-2025
Associate Member	2026-present
First Unitarian Society of Ithaca	
Member, Board of Trustees	2025-2028
Musician, Hospitality Team Co-Leader	2021-present
Member, Endowment Policy Committee	2025
Cub Scout Pack 55	2024-present
Den Leader	
Belle Sherman Elementary Parent Teacher Association	
Vice President	2023-2024
Secretary	2021-2023
350 Madison & Climate Action 350-UW, Madison, Wisconsin	2012-2013
Founding member of student chapter of 350.org at University of Wisconsin-Madison	
Madison Community Cooperative, Madison, Wisconsin	2007-2008
Member, Board of Directors	
Inter-Cooperative Council, Ann Arbor, Michigan	2006-2007
President, O'Keeffe House; member, Board of Directors and Major Maintenance Committee	