

Tamara A. Wattnem

tw596@cam.ac.uk

+1.510.734.7888

Academic Appointment

Assistant Professor, University of Cambridge **2022 - present**
Assistant Professor in Development Studies and Latin American Studies
Department of Politics and International Studies

Education

Ph.D. Sociology, University of Wisconsin Madison **2021**
Advisors: Jane Collins and Erik Olin Wright
Dissertation: “Neoliberal Resource Nationalism: The Scramble for Mexico’s Hydrocarbons and Minerals”
Committee: Jane Collins, Gay Seidman, Michael Bell, Gerardo Otero, Erica Simmons

M.Sc. Agroecology, University of Wisconsin Madison **2014**
Advisor: Jack Kloppenburg
Thesis: “Outlawing Informal Seed Systems in the Global South: Seed Laws, Certification, and Standardization”

B.A. Development Studies, University of California Berkeley **2008**

B.A. Latin American Studies, University of California Berkeley **2008**
Honors thesis: “*Camba* Demands for Autonomy and Bolivia’s Political Crisis”

Publications

Journal Articles

Wattnem, Tamara. (Forthcoming, accepted July 2022) “Neoliberal Resource Nationalism: The Scramble for Mexico’s Hydrocarbons.” *Latin American Perspectives*.

Wattnem, Tamara et al. (2022) “Who Defines Fine Chocolate? The Construction of Global Cocoa Quality Standards from Latin America.” *International Journal for the Sociology of Agriculture and Food* 28(1): 73-87

Wattnem, Tamara. (2016) “Outlawing Informal Seed Systems in the Global South: Seed Laws, Certification, and Standardization.” *Journal of Peasant Studies* 43(4): 850-867.

Book Chapter

Fitting, Elizabeth, Laura Gutiérrez Escobar and Tamara Wattnem. (2021) “Contesting Seed Standards: *The Red de Semillas Libres* in Colombia.” In Graham, Janice et al. (eds.). *The Social Life of Standards: Ethnographic Methods for Local Engagement*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Book Review

Wattnem, Tamara. (2019) “Women’s Inclusion is not Gender Equality.” *Feminist Collections* 40(1): 20-21.
Review of Kara Ellerby’s *No Shortcut to Change: An Unlikely Path to a More Gender Equitable World*.

Research Interests

Development and economic change; environmental sociology; agri-food systems; political sociology; Latin American history; critical agrarian studies; social movements

Teaching Experience

- Professor, “Perspectives on Sustainable Development and Environmentalism”** **Fall 2022**
University of Cambridge Development Studies Program
Master’s level course in the Department of Politics and International Studies
- Teaching Assistant, “Intro to International Studies”** **Spring 2021, Fall 2020 & Fall 2015**
UW Madison International Studies Program
Teaching Assistant (TA) for a lower division undergraduate class taught by Erica Simmons.
- Instructor, “Culture and the Global Workplace”** **Summer 2019**
UW Madison International Studies Program
Instructor for an online course on the sociology of culture that accompanied the International Internship Program. The syllabus was designed by Melody Niwot.
- Teaching Assistant, “Intro to Contentious Politics”** **Spring 2017**
UW Madison Political Science Department
TA for an upper division undergraduate class taught by Erica Simmons.
- Teaching Assistant, “Social Movements and Revolutions in Latin America”** **Fall 2016**
UW Madison Political Science Department
TA for an upper division undergraduate class taught by Erica Simmons.
- Teaching Assistant for “Intro to Community and Environmental Sociology”** **Spring 2016**
UW Madison Community and Environmental Sociology Department
TA for an undergraduate class taught by Jane Collins.

Peer Review Contributions for Journals

Peer Reviewer for *The Journal of Peasant Studies, Agriculture and Human Values, Journal of Human Rights Practice, and Earth System Governance.*

Research Experience

- Consultant** **Feb-July 2022**
Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
Co-lead the mid-term evaluation for a USDA-funded project seeking to improve the productivity of cocoa and coffee small-scale farmers in six Latin American countries.
- Visiting Researcher** **June-Nov 2020**
Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
Collaborated on a group research project about the implications of new global cocoa quality standards for small-scale cocoa farmers.

Research Assistant **Summer 2017**
Community and Environmental Sociology Program, UW Madison
Conducted interviews in Aguascalientes, Mexico for an updated edition of Jane Collins' book *Threads: Gender, Labor and Power in the Global Apparel Industry*.

Research Assistant **Summer 2016**
The Nature Conservancy
Conducted interviews with Latin American land tenure experts for the Land Tenure Security Gap project.

Research Assistant **May-Aug 2012**
ECOSUR – Chiapas, Mexico
Worked with agroecologists Helda Morales and Bruce Ferguson researching a “Participatory Agroecological Certification” system in Chiapas, Mexico.

Research Apprentice for sociologist Jacqueline Adams **2008**
URAP Program, UC Berkeley
Assisted Doctor Adams in her research about the *Arpillera* Movement – a poor women’s patchwork art movement that emerged during the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile.

Research and Writing Intern **Fall 2006**
Global Exchange, San Francisco CA
Research and writing assistant for Shannon Bigg’s co-authored book *Building the Green Economy: Success Stories from the Grassroots*.

Academic Conferences and Workshops

Journal of Peasant Studies Writeshop **Summer 2020**
Critical Agrarian Studies and Scholar-Activism
Working paper title: “Neoliberal Nationalism: The Scramble for Mexico’s Hydrocarbons”

Panelist at the American Anthropological Association Conference **Nov 2016**
Minneapolis, MN
Paper title: “Outlawing Informal Seed Systems in the Global South: Seed Laws, Certification, and Standardization”

Panelist at the Rural Sociological Society Conference **August 2014**
Madison, WI
Paper title: “Seed Standards and Informal Seed Systems: Colombia’s Resolution 970 as a Case Study”

Other Professional Experience

Latino Outreach Facilitator and Spanish Interpreter **2013**
Spring Rose Growers Cooperative, Madison WI
Co-facilitated a USDA-funded project to provide technical assistance for socially disadvantaged organic farmers in Southern Wisconsin. Coop members included Latin American immigrants and Hmong refugees.

Agroecology instructor and co-manager of an organic garden **Spring 2012**
Instituto Tecnológico de Roque, Guanajuato Mexico
Incorporated organic production techniques into the university’s agronomy curriculum.

Communications Consultant **2011**
STRO-CA, Social Trade Organization Central America, Honduras

Qualitative Research Assistant 2010
Management Sciences for Health (MSH), Honduras
Research assistant for a study about how the capacity building training given to NGOs through the project AIDSTAR-Two impacted the work of nine Honduran NGOs that work on HIV and STD prevention. These NGOs work with high-risk populations, including sex workers and trans populations.

Projects Assistant 2009
COPINH, Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras
COPINH is an indigenous grassroots organization based in Western Honduras founded by Berta Cáceres. I assisted with project designs and evaluations related to their communication and education strategies.

English to Spanish Translator 2009
Food First - Institute for Food Development Policy
Head translator of the book *Food Rebellions!* Written by Eric Holt-Giménez and Raj Patel from English to Spanish.

Certificate

Ecological Horticulture, University of California Santa Cruz 2011
Graduate of the 6-month-long “Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture” organized by the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems.

Awards and Fellowships

Tinker Nave Short-Term Field Research Grant 2018
Granted by UW Madison for doctoral dissertation research.

L&S Community of Graduate Research Scholars Fellowship 2014 & 2017
Funding package for two academic years as a Sociology Ph.D. student.

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Award 2013
FLAS Award for a year of Portuguese language studies.

SciMed Graduate Research Scholars Fellowship 2012
Funding package for my first year of the Agroecology Master’s Program.

Fulbright Fellow in Honduras 2009
Conducted research about the role of community radio stations in the immediate aftermath of the 2009 coup.

Language Skills

Native: Spanish and English

Intermediate: Portuguese

Beginner: French

References

Jane Collins: janecollins2@gmail.com

Gay Seidman: gseidman@wisc.edu

Erica Simmons: essimons@wisc.edu

Jack Kloppenburg: jrkloppe@wisc.edu

Michael Bell: michaelbell@wisc.edu