

# MEGAN DWYER BAUMANN, PHD (SHE/HER)

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## EDUCATION

### Doctor of Philosophy in Geography, 2017-2021

*Pennsylvania State University (Penn State)*

Graduated: August 14, 2021.

Dissertation title: Irrigation Megaprojects and Human-Environmental Geography: Remaking land-water connections in Tolima, Colombia.

Advisor: Karl S. Zimmerer.

### Master of Science in Geography, 2015-2017

*Pennsylvania State University*

Thesis title: Environmental Landscape Knowledge Among Smallholder Farmers in Nicaragua.

### Bachelor of Arts in History and Sociology, 2008

*Loyola University of Chicago*

Minor in Spanish Language and Literature

Magna Cum Laude.

### Universidad Nacional de Colombia, sede Bogotá, August 2018 - July 2019

*Visiting researcher*. College of Agricultural Sciences.

### Westside Technical Institute of City Colleges of Chicago, IL, February - October 2012

*Certificate of Sustainable Urban Horticulture*

*Certificate of Environmental Literacy*, in partnership with UC Berkeley.

### Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Argentina, July 2007

*Non-degree seeking student*. Completed courses on post-conflict contemporary Argentine history.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Publications in Refereed Journals

- 2021 Tamariz, G., **Baumann, M.D.** Introduction to Special Issue: Agrobiodiversity in Conflict and Post-Conflict Landscapes. *Geoforum*.
- 2021 Baumann, M.D. Agrobiodiversity's caring material practices as a symbolic frame for environmental governance in Colombia's southern Tolima. *Geoforum*.  
doi: 10.1016/j.geoforum.2021.01.002
- 2020 **Baumann, M.D.**, Zimmerer, K.S., Van Etten, J. Participatory seed projects and environmental landscape knowledge in Central America. *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*.  
doi: 10.1080/14735903.2020.1775930

### Articles Under Peer Review

Baumann, M.D. Living a Callejera Methodology: Grounding María Lugones' Streetwalker Theorizing in Feminist Decolonial Praxis. Invited contribution to Interventions: Relationality and anti-oppressive geographic praxis. *Gender, Place & Culture*.

Second submission with minor revisions in October 2021 after receiving positive reviews.

Baumann, M.D. "No es rentable": Land rentals as form of slow exclusion and dispossession in Colombian irrigated landscapes. Submitted to *The Journal of Peasant Studies* in May 2021.

Baumann, M.D. Prácticas materiales de cuidado de la agrobiodiversidad como marco simbólico para la gobernanza ambiental en el sur del Tolima, Colombia. Submitted to *Estudios Críticos del Desarrollo* in June 2021.

### Manuscripts in Preparation

\*signals student co-author

Quiroga-Arcila, A.M.\*, **Baumann, M.D.**, Acevedo-Osorio, Á. Indicators of soil health to analyze sustainability in conventional and traditional agroecosystems in southern Tolima, Colombia.

Baumann, M.D., Zimmerer, K.S. The Tolima Triangle rice boom: Rethinking spatial and relational concepts of irrigation water use and access. To be submitted to the *Journal of Latin American Geography*.

### Non-Peer Reviewed/Other Publications

2021 Baumann, M.D. "Las riquezas, las problemáticas y los contrastes en referencia al agua y a la tierra en la cuenca de Saldaña." Invited contribution to *La Revista Ambiental*. Tolima, Colombia.

2018 Baumann, M.D. Stephen Sherwood, Alberto Arce and Myriam Paredes (eds.): Food, Agriculture and Social Change: The Everyday Vitality of Latin America. *Journal of Latin American Geography*.

2016 Baumann, M.D. Daniel R. Block and Howard B. Rosing: Chicago: A food biography. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 1-2.

2012 "Unburying Kimbell: Logan Square's Agricultural Legacy" in *AREA#12:Intersections*, Chicago: 36. Print. Co-authored with Dave Snyder.

### Social Media

2021 Baumann, M.D. "El Triángulo de Tolima: Un megaproyecto de riego estancado y una gobernanza sostenible del cuidado." 11 May 2021. [Blog post.] Sur Desarrollo: Revista sobre desarrollo. <https://surdesarrollorevista.com/?p=277>

## GRANTS

2021 **National Science Foundation (NSF) Social, Behavioral, Economic (SBE) Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (SPRF)**. (*Declined*). PI, with co-PI Heidi Hausermann. \$138,000.

2019 **National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award (DDRI)**. Co-PI, with PI K.S. Zimmerer. "*Doctoral Dissertation Research: Remaking soil in dryland irrigation megaprojects: Contested governance of water and soil in Colombia's Tolima Valley*." \$17,998.

- 2018 **Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award (DDRA).** *“Remaking the internal frontier through irrigation megaprojects: Water and soil governance in Colombia’s Tolima Valley.”* \$32,457.
- 2017 **National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP).** *“The Role of Farmer Landscape Cognition in Seed Management of Subsistence Crops.”* \$102,000.
- 2016 **Studentship with Bioversity International & Zimmerer GeoSyntheSES Lab.** \$3,667.
- 2015 **Center for Landscape Dynamics Graduate Research Grant, Penn State.** \$2,500.
- 2004-08 **Loyola Merit Scholarship, Loyola University Chicago.** \$60,000.
- 2004-08 **Gannon Scholar, Mundelein College Women’s Leadership Scholarship, Loyola University Chicago.** \$14,000.

## JOURNAL ISSUE ORGANIZED

- 2020 *Geoforum*. “Agrobiodiversity in Conflict and Post-Conflict Landscapes”, co-organized with Gabriel Tamariz (Penn State Geography). Under review as of February 2021: 4 of 7 papers published.  
Organized following paper session and round-table at 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2021- Global Qualitative Research Lead and Regional Research Lead for Latin America at nongovernmental organization Women’s World Banking. Design, execute and manage mixed methods research projects on gender equity in the financial sector. Current projects in Mexico, Nigeria, India and Indonesia.
- 2020-2021 Social scientist volunteer on interdisciplinary research team of EPA scientists. Contributing qualitative methodologies and social science rigor to data collection instruments and indicator creation for assessing social and economic benefits of environmental cleanups in the Great Lakes.
- 2018-2019 Dissertation research. Supported by the *National University of Colombia (UNAL), Bogotá, College of Agricultural Sciences* and the *Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History (ICANH)*. Tolima, Colombia. August - July.  
Methods: Semi-structured & key informant interviews, farmer surveys, field walks, ethnographic participant observation, archival document analysis, policy analysis, remote sensing, cartography.
- 2017 Field research for project with Zimmerer GeoSyntheSES Lab. Supported by the *Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)*. Jinotega & Matagalpa, Nicaragua. June - July.  
Methods: Semi-structured interviews, farmer surveys, transect walks, ethnographic participant observation, participatory sketch mapping.
- 2016 Field research for Master’s thesis. *Funded by Bioversity International & Penn State’s GeoSyntheSES Lab. Supported by CATIE.*

Jinotega, Nicaragua. June - July.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews, farmer surveys, transect walks, ethnographic participant observation, participatory sketch mapping.

## AWARDS

- 2021 Best Research Paper Award, Latin American Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers
- 2021 Mauna Kea Student Presentation Award, PhD level, Mountain Geographies Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers
- 2018 Best Dissertation Proposal, Second Place, Penn State Geography
- 2018 Graduate Student Travel Award to Conference for Latin American Geographers (CLAG), Penn State Global Programs
- 2017 Nancy Brown Community Service Award, Penn State Department of Geography
- 2017 Conference for Latin American Geographers Graduate Travel Award

## INVITED COLLOQUIA & GUEST LECTURES

- 2021 “Un megaproyecto hidráulico estancado en la frontera agrícola: Visiones conflictivos sobre la gobernanza ambiental en el Triángulo del Tolima.” Panelist. International seminar hosted by *Universidad del Rosario, El Programa de Sociología de la Escuela de Ciencias Humanas, y el semillero Ruralidad, territorio y conflicto*. October 14.
- 2021 Research presentation. *Texas State University, Department of Geography*. March 12.
- 2021 “Megaproyectos de riego y dinámicas socioambientales.” *Acevedo Lab. National University of Colombia – Bogotá, Agronomy Department*. Guest research presentation. February 25.
- 2021 Research presentation. *University of Connecticut, Department of Geography*. February 10.
- 2020 “Virtual Water and Global Food Production.” *Penn State University, Department of Geography*. Guest lecture for course Environment and Society in a Changing World. November 16.
- 2020 “Field research in the era of covid19: Creative approaches to methods and fieldwork.” *Penn State University, Department of Geography*. Panelist for professional development workshop. October 15.
- 2019 “Agricultural development and uneven benefits: Rethinking infrastructure for increased production.” *University of Colorado-Boulder, Department of Geography*. Guest lecture for course Geography of International Development. November 4.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 *Upcoming*. “Contesting Suspended Infrastructure: Social-environmental unevenness in Colombia’s Tolima Triangle.” *Conference for Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) 2022*. Tucson, AZ. January.

- 2021 “The Tolima Triangle rice boom: Expanding spatial and relational concepts of irrigation water use and access.” *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG)*. April 11.
- 2021 Panelist invited for “Dialogues and positionalities in research in / on Colombia. Challenges in the face of a colonial past and a post-agreement and (post-syndemic?) future.” *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG)*. April 8.
- 2021 “Learning at Pickle Ponds: what does R2R2R look like in a place.” *Poster Presentation*. \*Interdisciplinary team of authors from EPA ORD: Katie Williams, Ted Angradi, **Megan Baumann**, Sophia Green, Tom Hollenhorst, Jennifer Josephs, Jon Launspach, Keahna Margeson, Sebastian Paczuski, Molly Wick, Julia Witts. *10<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Louis River Summit*. March.
- 2020 *Co-presented poster with undergraduate student Ana María Quiroga*. “Sustainability analysis of soil health in rice agroecosystems and traditional agroecosystems of indigenous Pijao communities in southern Tolima.” *VIII Latin American Congress of Agroecology*. November 25-27.
- 2020 “The social life of soil in irrigation infrastructure: (Mis)aligned management of water and soil in Colombia’s Tolima Valley.” Panel Session: Political ecologies desde Abya Yala: A theoretical and empirical debate from Latin America. Co-authors: Ana María Quiroga and Dr. Álvaro Acevedo Osorio. *POLLEN 2020*. September 22.
- 2020 “Acceso a y usos de los suelos en paisajes de riego: Los megadistritos de Tolima.” (Access to and use of soils in irrigated landscapes: Tolima’s megadistricts.) Panel session: Acceso y uso de la tierra en escenarios de transición: conflictos y negociaciones. (Access to and use of the land in scenes of transition: conflicts and negotiations.) *Latin American Studies Association 2020 Congress*. May 13.
- 2020 “Remaking soil in dryland irrigation megaprojects: (Mis)aligned management of water and soil in Colombia’s Tolima Valley.” Paper Session: Integrating Land and Water Management and Policy in the Western U.S. and Other Dry Regions. *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG)*. April 6.
- 2019 “The in-between, the collective and speaking up: Methodological implications of Maria Lugones’ work.” Paper Session: Beyond Metaphors of Decolonization: Engaging the Intersections of Feminist Geography and Decolonial Feminist Theory. *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG)*. Washington, D.C. April.
- 2018 “Farmer Seed Projects and Environmental Landscape Knowledge in Nicaragua.” Paper Session: Farmer decision-making in a changing world: Probing the complexities of farmer action for more sustainable and just food systems - II. *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG)*. New Orleans, Louisiana. April.
- 2018 “Irrigation megaprojects and solidarity in Tolima, Colombia: A streetwalker methodology informs feminist political ecology.” Paper Session: Women & Gender Equity in Agriculture: Dialogues in Agrarian Feminism. *Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference (DoPE)*. University of Kentucky. February.
- 2017 “Distance Isolation and Caging: Seed Production as Resistance Against Alienation Through a Feminist Geopolitics Analytic.” Paper Session: Critical Agricultures. *Critical Geographies Conference*. Penn State University. October.

- 2017 “The Role of Landscape Cognition in Smallholder Crop Management for Food Security in Nicaragua.” Paper Session: Transforming Human-Environment Interactions Research through Integrative Methods 1. *Conference of the American Association of Geographers*. April.
- 2017 “Landscape Cognition and Smallholder Food Security in Northern Nicaragua.” In Paper Session: Sustainability, Transition, Livelihoods. *Latin American Geographers Conference*. New Orleans, Louisiana. January.

## SESSIONS ORGANIZED AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

- 2022 *Upcoming*. Co-organizer (with Ramzi Tubbeh, Penn State), “Hydraulic Infrastructures in Rural Latin America.” Paper session. *Conference for Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG)*. Tucson, AZ. January.
- 2019 Co-organizer (with Dr. A. Marie Ranjbar, University of Colorado at Boulder), “Beyond Metaphors of Decolonization: Engaging the Intersections of Feminist Geography and Decolonial Feminist Theory I & II.” Paper sessions (2) for the *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers*. Washington, D.C. April.
- 2018 Co-organizer (with Dr. Kelsey Emard, Oregon State University), “Interseccionalidad y colonialidad en geografía socioambiental: Contribuciones empíricas de América Latina a la teoría feminista.” (Intersectionality and coloniality in human-environment geography: Empirical contributions from Latin American feminist theory.) Paper session for the *Conference for Latin American Geographers (CLAG)*. San Juan, Costa Rica. May.
- 2017 Co-organizer and co-chair (with Dr. Russell Hedberg, Shippensburg University), “Farmer decision-making in a changing world: Probing the complexities of farmer action for more sustainable and just food systems.” Paper sessions (3) for the *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers*. New Orleans, LA. April.
- 2017 Co-organizer and co-chair (with Gabriel Tamariz, Penn State University), “Agrobiodiversity in Conflict and Post-Conflict Landscapes.” Panel and paper session for the *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers*. New Orleans, LA. April.  
*Resulted in Geoforum special issue.*

## TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

### Course Instructor

- 2018 Environment and Society in a Changing World (GEOG30) (3.0 credits)  
Penn State University, University Park, PA  
Class size of 16 students. Six-week summer intensive course.
- 2014 Season Extension Techniques for Urban Vegetable Growers (3.0 credits)  
Westside Technical Institute, Chicago, IL  
Developed the course and syllabus and taught the pilot course.  
Class size of 12 students. Semester-long evening course for non-traditional students, including justice-system involved individuals.

### Research Interns

Alba T.	Masters of International Studies	Tufts University
Solveig Baylor	Undergraduate, Economics and Philosophy	Georgetown University

### Undergraduate Research Assistants

Ana María Quiroga Arcila	Bachelor of Science in Agronomy	National University of Colombia
María Paula Hernandez	Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology	Rosario University, Colombia
Hannah Perrelli	Bachelor of Science in Geography	Penn State
Brit Ikes	Bachelor of Science in Geography	Penn State
Zixuan Huang	Bachelor of Science in Geography	Penn State
Panini Pandya	Bachelor of Science in Geography	Penn State
Nicole Rivera	Bachelor of Science in Geography	Penn State

### Mentorship

2021- Jennifer Angel-Amaya, *Universidad Nacional de Colombia*. Fulbright PhD Scholar, Columbia University.

### Teaching Assistant, Penn State University

2017 Early African History (AFR 101)  
2016 Geography of Africa (GEOG 105/AFR 105)  
2016 Introduction to Political Ecology (GEOG 131)  
2016 Introduction to Geopolitics (GEOG 128)  
2015 Introduction to Human Geography (GEOG 020)

### Trainings

2018 Foundational Instruction Series completion, Schreyer Institute of Teaching Excellence

### Nonacademic Teaching

#### Instructor, Chicago Greencorps Youth Program

June - August 2015

Taught 6-week summer program in urban ecology to 50 urban high school students. Organized and instructed lessons on urban ecology and environmental justice.

#### Agricultural Educator & Farm Coordinator, Chicago Botanic Garden's Windy City Harvest

March 2013 - May 2015

Created curriculum for experiential teaching of environmental and plant sciences and horticulture. Taught cohorts of 28 high school students. Managed one-acre sustainably grown vegetable farm. Supervised grower and two interns.

## SERVICE

### Scholarly Affiliations

American Association of Geographers (AAG)  
Conference for Latin American Geographers (CLAG)  
Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG)

### Reviewer

2021- *Journal of Latin American Geography*  
2021- *Journal for Great Lakes Research*  
2021- *Gender, Place & Culture*  
2020- *Geoforum*  
2020- *Agriculture & Human Values*

### Disciplinary Service

2022 AAG Career Mentor  
2020- Treasurer, Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers

### Departmental Service

2015-2021 Nature-Society Working Group  
2017-2021 Zimmerer GeoSyntheSES Lab, *Coordinator*  
2017-2018 Supporting Women in Geography, *Treasurer*  
2016-2018 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Connection, *Coordinator*  
2017-2018 Graduate Student Representative & Treasurer

## JUSTICE, DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

- Served on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee of Geographies of Food & Agriculture Specialty Group in which we highlight and center the scholarship of underrepresented researchers.
- Participated in trainings on diversity, equity and inclusion and associated topics through Penn State and Women's World Banking.
- Led Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG), a Penn State group promoting and supporting underrepresented groups.
- Mentored seven undergraduate students as Research Assistants, six of which identify as women and/or students of color.
- Conducted community outreach around social-environmental issues in primarily Latinx and Black communities in Cook and Lake counties, populations historically excluded from environmental discussions.
- Planned and implemented qualitative research program with input from Indigenous peoples in Colombia for their efforts to secure government regulations for more equitable water access.

## NONACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

**Research Lead, Global Qualitative Research and Regional Latin American Research, Women's World Banking.**  
June 2021 – Present



Lead all qualitative research methodologies on a seven-person Research Team for projects in Mexico, India, Indonesia, and Nigeria examining financial services that work for the security and prosperity of low-income women and their families. Research themes include savings, policy and advocacy for financial services changes, bolstering women in leadership positions, and services that support farmers' mitigation of or adaptation to climate change stresses.

**Research Volunteer**, Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Research and Development Great Lakes Toxicology and Ecology Division, Ecosystem Services Branch

August 2020 – May 2021

Contribute to interdisciplinary research on ecosystem services, specifically developing research instruments and methodologies to assess the social benefits of environmental remediation and restoration projects. The research advances EPA work into 'revitalization' processes following remediation and restoration.

**Instructor**, Chicago Greencorps Youth Program

June - August 2015

Created and delivered curriculum on urban ecology to two cohorts of 25 students each throughout nine weeks. Topics included participatory neighborhood mapping, field methods, soil cores, and water testing.

**Agricultural Educator & Farm Coordinator**, Chicago Botanic Garden's Windy City Harvest

March 2013 - May 2015

Taught ecology and horticulture to cohorts of 30 students in farm and forest preserves settings. Topics included climate change, soil health, plant biology, marketing, and culinary arts.

**Research Specialist**, Institute for Health Research and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago

February - July 2011

Led bilingual data collection teams in 16 cities for research program Bridging the Gap, examining access to healthy food options and opportunities for wellbeing in neighborhoods. Lead PI: Dr. Frank Chaloupka.

**Paralegal & Accredited Representative of Asylum Project**, National Immigrant Justice Center

May 2008 - May 2010

Represented before Chicago Immigration Court and USCIS asylum seekers from various countries including Colombia, Eritrea, Iran, and Myanmar. Coordinated over 250 open cases and more than 1,000 *pro bono* attorneys. Screened more than 500 potential cases through in-person interviews and research.