

Lauren S. Asprooth

University: lsasprooth@ucdavis.edu

Personal: asprooth@gmail.com

EDUCATION

PhD candidate, Geography (expected June 2023)

University of California, Davis

Dissertation: Supporting a transition to a regenerative agriculture in the Corn Belt; Grassroots and top-down approaches to encouraging farmer adoption of conservation practices

Graduate advisor: Ryan Galt, PhD

Master of Public Administration, concentration in Environmental Policy, 2017

Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington

Thesis: Understanding and increasing community knowledge of legal rights in the Senegalese mining sector

Output: Guide and trainee manual (French/English) for community education and outreach in the Kedougou region of Senegal to promote understanding and effective exercise of community rights in the mining sector

Graduate advisor: Brian Dillon, PhD

B.A. in Political Science & Geography, University of Delaware, 2009

PUBLICATIONS

Asprooth, L., Norton, M., Galt, R., 2023. The adoption of conservation practices in the Corn Belt: the role of one formal farmer network, Practical Farmers of Iowa. Agric Hum Values.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-023-10451-5>

Durant, J.L., **Asprooth, L.**, Galt, R.E., Schmulevich, S.P., Manser, G.M., Pinzón, N., 2023. Farm resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic: The case of California direct market farmers.

Agricultural Systems 204, 103532. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2022.103532>

Galt, R.E., **Asprooth, L.**, 2021. The effects of agrochemicals on humans, in: Handbook on the Human Impact of Agriculture. Edward Elgar Publishing.

<https://doi.org/10.4337/9781839101748.00028>

Ignaciuk, A., Ilicic, J., **Asprooth, L.**, Sitko, N., Bernard, A., Tubiello, F., Mueller, M., Ilicic, J., 2021. Progress towards sustainable agriculture: Drivers of change, FAO Agricultural Development Economics Technical Study No. 13. FAO, Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7896en>

Tubiello, F., Wanner, N., **Asprooth, L.**, Muller, M., Ignaciuk, A., Khan, A., Rosero-Moncayo, J., 2021. Measuring progress towards sustainable agriculture, FAO Statistics Working Paper 21-24. FAO, Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4549en>

IN REVIEW

Asprooth, L., Norton, M., Galt, R. Transforming the Corn Belt; A recipe for collaborative, farmer-driven research and diffusion of innovation. Submitted to Journal of Rural Studies.

Pesci, S., Galt, R., Manser, G., **Asprooth, L.**, Durant, J., Pinzón, N. California direct market farmers' use of online sales and marketing during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Submitted to Journal of Rural Studies.

IN PREPARATION

Asprooth, L., Krome, M., Hartman, A., Galt, R., Prokopy, L. Understanding and leveraging farmer diversification to small grains in corn and soybean systems. For submission Spring 2023 to Journal of Soil and Water Conservation.

Asprooth, L., Krome, M., Hartman, A., Galt, R., Prokopy, L. Our daily bread in the Heartland; What does farm policy have to do with it? For submission summer 2023 to Food Policy.

Traldi, R., **Asprooth, L.**, Usher, E., Church, S., Floress, K., Harden, S., Maynard, L., Thompson, A., Torres, A., Prokopy, L., Arbuckle J. Identifying barriers, opportunities, and future visions re: agricultural diversification in the Corn Belt. Journal to be identified. For submission summer 2023.

TECHNICAL REPORTS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Asprooth, L., Alyssa Hartman, Jody Padgham, Hannah Francis, Claire Stedden, Margaret Krome, Ashley McFarland. Organic Small Grain Marketing. 2023. Fact Sheet Series 22-3, University of Wisconsin Organic Grain Resource and Information Network (OGRAIN).

Andrade, R. and **Asprooth, L.** 50 years of CIAT Breeding; A comprehensive look at release and adoption of CIAT genetic material since 1967. 2020. International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Internal report.

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2022	Soil Health Collaborative (in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the USDA's Dairy Forage Research Center)	\$21,187
2022	Henry A. Jastro Research Fellowship, UC Davis	\$3,000
2021	Graduate Student Grant, North Central Region SARE	\$14,850
2021	Farmers Advocating for Organic, Organic Valley	\$24,000
2021	Henry A. Jastro Research Fellowship, UC Davis	\$3,000
2021	Geography Graduate Group Fellowship, Winter quarter, UC Davis	\$10,313
2021	American Association of Geographers Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group Graduate Research Grant (Doctoral level)	\$600
2020	Henry A. Jastro Research Fellowship, UC Davis	\$3,000
2015	USAID Food Security Initiative- Feed the Future, Peace Corps Senegal	\$8,700

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023 People's Choice Award winner, Academic poster, Marbleseed Midwest Organic Conference
- 2021 Gamma Theta Upsilon, International Geographical Honors Society, University of California, Davis
- 2017 Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society for Public Affairs, University of Washington
- 2017 Evans School of Marc Lindenberg Global Action Prize Award Winner \$500
- 2009 Political Science Honors Society, University of Delaware
- 2005-2009 Dean's list, University of Delaware

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022- present **Research consultant**, Diverse Corn Belt Project, Purdue University
Holding interviews & focus groups, contributing towards survey design, and conducting qualitative data analysis for a multi-disciplinary and multi-institute USDA NIFA funded study on the impacts of and opportunities for diversification in the Midwestern Corn Belt
- 2020- present **Research consultant**, Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI)
Leading analysis of 2020 PFI member survey and implementation of follow-up farmer interviews to understand the role of farmer networks in adoption of conservation practices in the Corn Belt
- 2018-2019 **Economics and Policy Analyst**, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Conducted econometrics and policy analysis on the macro and micro-level drivers of sustainable agriculture
- 2017-2018 **Visiting Researcher**, International Center for Tropical Agriculture
Co-authored paper on the worldwide adoption of CIAT's improved variety seed and selected landraces
- 2018 **Consultant- Participatory Land Reform**, Colombia Rural
Analyzed & reported on data for the Colombian government's post-conflict rural development program
- 2017 **Research Assistant**, University of Chicago
Conducted interviews, analyzed, reported on impacts of scheduling ordinances for food industry workers
- 2014-2016 **Sustainable Agriculture Extension Agent**, Peace Corps Senegal

Extended improved variety seed, collected & analyzed performance data; trained farmers in conservation farming; received & managed USAID grant for irrigation infrastructure

TEACHING

- 2023 **Guest speaker**, D-Lab (Development through Design, Dialogue and Dissemination)
UC Davis, Davis, CA
- Provided an overview of research methods including focus group, interview, and survey design & introduction to Qualtrics survey software
- 2023 **Grader**, CRD 20, Community & Regional Development
UC Davis, Davis, CA
- Graded 65 capstone assignments for undergraduate students around their personal experience with the food system and what it means for how they think, feel, and act.
- 2022 **Guest lecturer**, Env St 600, Exploring Food System Resilience in Wisconsin Communities
UW Madison, Madison, WI
- Presented on the role of farm policy in agricultural diversification in the Midwestern Corn Belt
- 2020 **Teaching Assistant**, CRD 20, Community & Regional Development
UC Davis, Davis, CA
- Taught biweekly section classes on the socio-economic challenges of the modern food system with a focus on critical perspectives pertaining to race, inequality, power, and concentration. Held weekly office hours, performed grading, and created weekly section material for 23 undergraduate students
- 2017 **Teaching Assistant**, Managing Organizational Performance
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- Taught biweekly section classes on effective writing, measuring organizational performance, mapping outcomes, and understand human behavior change. Held weekly office hours, performed grading, and created weekly section material for 45 graduate students

PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 Small grains for food grade production in the Upper Midwest. Midwest GRIT (Grains Resource & Immersive Training). Virtual, 31 March.
- 2023 Our daily bread in the heartland; Understanding farmer diversification to small grains in corn and soybean systems. Marbleseed Organic Farming Conference poster. La Crosse WI, 23-25 February.

- 2022 Cultivating Sustainability through Farmer Networks. Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds. Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, 30 March.
- 2021 The role of one farmer network in adoption of conservation practices in the Corn Belt. Just Food Conference. Virtual, 15 June.
- 2021 Pandemic pivots: Direct market producer resilience and adaptability during the COVID-19 pandemic. Just Food Conference. Virtual, 14 June.
- 2021 Using Social Norms to Promote Conservation Adoption. North Central Region Water Network webinar series. Virtual, 9, June.
- 2021 Pandemic pivots: Direct market producer resilience and adaptability during the COVID-19 pandemic. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Virtual, 8 April.
- 2021 Lightening talk: PFI member survey results, Practical Farmers of Iowa conference. Virtual, 22, January

CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2022 Discussant, Roundtable: The State of State and Local Food Systems during COVID 19: Lessons Learned and Opportunities for Growth in Stakeholders, Governance, and Community Engagement. Cultivating Connections - 2022 AFHVS/ASFS Conference, virtual, 19 May.
- 2021 Discussant, Roundtable: Regional Views: Examining challenges, adaptations, and surprises in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in food systems in the United States. Just Food Conference, virtual, 10 June.
- 2021 Co-organizer, Panel: The COVID-19 pandemic and the agri-food system: changes, challenges, and opportunities, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, virtual, 8 April.
- 2021 Panelist, Critical Perspectives on Feeding the World symposium, University of California, Davis, 14 May.

PRESS COVERAGE

Center for Rural Affairs, August 19, 2022.

<https://www.cfra.org/blog/new-resources-explain-crop-insurance-small-grains>

Daily Journal Online, August 24, 2022.

https://dailyjournalonline.com/community/farmington-press/news/new-resources-explain-crop-insurance-for-small-grains/article_9cfcec9a-35d0-5664-b2d0-5908b0b4475c.html

Insurance News Net, August 24, 2022.

<https://insurancenewsnet.com/oarticle/new-resources-explain-crop-insurance-for-small-grains>

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Geographers, Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group

The Agriculture Food and Human Values Society

SERVICE

2023 Reviewer for the Journal of Agriculture and Human Values

2022 Reviewer for the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation

2022 UC Davis Food Systems and Sustainability Lab coordinator

TECHNICAL & LANGUAGE SKILLS

Research: Survey design, focus groups, structured and unstructured interviews

Software: R (data wrangling, mapping, quantitative analysis), Stata, Tableau (data visualization), NVivo (qualitative data analysis), Qualtrics (survey development and distribution)

Languages: Spanish, Pulaar/Fulani – fluent, French – proficient