

J. Rafter Sass Ferguson

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies
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RESEARCH AREA

farming systems • permaculture • participatory research
multifunctional landscapes • grassroots networks • popular education

EDUCATION

- 2015 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, PhD, Crop Sciences
Dissertation: *Permaculture as Farming Practice and International Grassroots Network: A Multidisciplinary Study*. Advisors: Sarah Taylor Lovell, Thomas Bassett, Ashwini Chhatre, Michelle Wander
- 2011 University of Vermont, MS, Plant and Soil Science
Concentration: Agroecology and Ecological Landscape Design
- 2001 Bard College, BA, Anthropology

Graduate Coursework in Agroecology, Statistics, Environmental Microbiology, Data Management, Political Ecology, Qualitative Methods, Geographic Information Systems, Ecological Landscape Design, Ecosystem Modeling

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2016–2018 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies. Haverford College, Haverford PA, USA.
- 2016 BASE Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Climate Change Impacts and Modeling Group, Centre for Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Change, University of Lisbon. Portugal.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2017 Ferguson, R.S. & Lovell, S.T. Livelihood and Production Diversity on US Permaculture Farms. *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*.
- 2015 Ferguson, R.S. & Lovell, S.T. Grassroots engagement with transition to sustainability: diversity and modes of participation in the international permaculture movement. *Ecology and Society*.
- 2014 Ferguson, R.S. & Lovell, S.T. Permaculture for agroecology: design, movement, practice, and worldview. A review. *Agronomy for Sustainable Development*.
- In press.* Ferguson, R.S. & Lovell, S.T. Diversification and Labor Productivity on US Permaculture Farms. *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*.

Book Chapters

- In press.* Ferguson, R.S. Permaculture as grassroots network and farming system: 5 years of research, in: *Designing the World We Want: Permaculture Perspectives 2015, Reclaiming Diversity & Citizenship*. Centre for Agroecology, Water, and Resilience. Coventry University, UK.

In press. Morel, K., Léger, F., **Ferguson, R.S.** Permaculture, in: Nielsen, S.N. (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Ecology: Terrestrial and Landscape Ecology*. Elsevier Science, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2016 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship
Haverford College
- 2016 BASE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship
EU project *Bottom-up Climate Adaptation Strategies Towards a Sustainable Europe* at University of Lisbon (9 months)
- 2015 Project Drawdown Fellowship (Fall cohort)
- 2015 AYRE International Research and Learning Fellowship
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2013 Agroecology Scholars Program (2 years, full funding)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2013 Graduate College Conference Travel Award
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2012 Changing the Face of Farming
\$10,000 crowdfunding campaign with 164 individual donors
- 2010 Jonathan Baldwin Turner Fellowship (3 years, full funding)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2009 Northeastern States Research Cooperative Theme 1 Grant
(1 year, full funding)
- 2009 Teaching Assistantship. University of Vermont
- 2008 Teaching Assistantship. University of Vermont
- 2008 Research Assistantship. University of Vermont

ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Invited Talks

- 2015 Permaculture as movement and practice: research frontiers and transition strategies. Presented at the Coventry University Centre for Agroecology, Water, and Resilience, Coventry, UK.
- 2015 Permaculture in Theory and Practice: Grassroots Agroecology and Diversified Farms. Presented at Permaculture et agroécologie, Paris, France: AgroParisTech, UMR SAD-APT.
- 2014 Ferguson, R.S. & Toensmeier, E. Perennial agriculture now: a global review of perennial staple crops by climate region and nutrient profile. Presented at the American Society of Agronomy International Annual Meeting: Great challenges, grand solutions., Long Beach, CA.
- 2013 Permaculture research in academia. Presented at the Yale Food Systems Symposium 2013: Urbanization and Food System Transformation, New Haven, CT: Yale University.
- 2013 Permaculture and Agroecological Transition. Presented at the Berkeley Center for Diversified Farming Systems.

Conference Presentations

- 2017 Labor productivity of perennial cropping systems on US permaculture farms. Presented at the 15th North American Agroforestry Conference, Blacksburg, VA.
- 2015 Permaculture as a Catalyst for Agroforestry Adoption: Perennial Production Systems on Diversified Farms. Presented at the 14th North American Agroforestry Conference, Ames, IA.
- 2015 Permaculture as Grassroots Network and Farming System: 5 Years of Research. Presented at the 12th International Permaculture Conference. London, UK.
- 2014 Land use and livelihood diversity on permaculture agroecosystems in the US. Presented at From Oceans to Mountains. 99th ESA Annual Meeting, Sacramento, USA.
- 2013 Recovering the Future: food system transition pathways on (and around) US permaculture farms. Presented at the Yale Food Systems Symposium 2013: Urbanization and Food System Transformation, New Haven, USA: Yale University.
- 2013 Conservation contra Permaculture: Alternative Ecologies of Multifunctionality and Resistance to Neoliberal Agriculture. Presented at the Dimensions of Political Ecology: Conference on Nature Society., Lexington, USA: University of Kentucky.
- 2012 From Garden Ecology to Sustainable Agriculture: the Emergence of Permaculture Farms. Presented at the 2nd Int'l Food Studies Conference. IL, USA: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2012 Hybrid Ecological Knowledge: Permaculture and the Political Ecology of Landscape Regeneration. Presented at the Dimensions of Political Ecology 2012. Lexington, USA: University of Kentucky.

Conference Posters

- 2017 Livelihoods on US Permaculture Farms. Poster presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Boston, MA.
- 2015 Multifunctional Landscapes on US Permaculture Farms: Land Use and Practice on 48 Sites. Poster presented at the 27th International Congress for Conservation Biology, Montepelier, France.
- 2013 Sears, E, Warburton-Brown, C, Remiarz, T, & **Ferguson, R.S.** (2013). A social learning organisation evolves a research capability in order to study itself. Poster presented at the Radical Emission Reduction Conference of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. London, UK.
- 2013 Engaging Ecological Literacy from the Ground Up: The Influence and Impacts of the Permaculture Movement. Poster presented at the Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting 2013: Sustainable Pathways: Learning From the Past and Shaping the Future, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2011 Lovell, S.T., Bennett A., **Ferguson, R.S.**, Taylor, J.R. (2011). Multifunctional urban agriculture – Supporting earth stewardship in human-dominated ecosystems. Poster presented at the 96th ESA Annual Convention, Austin, TX.

Symposia

- 2018 Beyond the Grassroots: Participatory Ecology and Political Praxis Mellon Symposium.

SPECIALIZED SKILLS

Farming systems analysis, interdisciplinary and mixed methods, multivariate statistics and data visualization in R, scientific and popular education, participatory methods, ecological design,

public speaking, group facilitation, project management, social media.

MAJOR GRANTS SUBMITTED

Yanez, M. Resiliency Collaborative. (Senior Research Fellow/major writer) USDA-NIFA-AFRI: Agriculture and Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change. \$1,000,000

Lovell, S.T. Integration Mushrooms with Hoophouse Production on Small Farms. (Graduate Research Assistant/principal writer). USDA-SARE. \$142,482.

Lovell, S.T., Mendez, V.E. (Graduate Research Assistant/principal writer). Urban Forest Gardening: The Challenges of Soil Contamination and the Opportunities of a Permanent Urban Agriculture. USDA-FS-NUCFAC. \$50,000.

Lovell, S.T., Mendez, V.E. (Graduate Research Assistant/principal writer). The Economic and Ecological Yields of On-Farm Tree Habitat. NSRC Theme 1 Graduate Assistant Grants. FY 2009-2010, \$25,000. *Awarded*.

TEACHING

Instructor, Haverford College (all original classes)

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| 2018 | Carbon Farming. |
| 2016, 2017 | Introduction to Permaculture. |
| 2017 | The Future of Farming: Controversies in Agricultural Development. |

Graduate Student Instructor

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| 2014 | Agriculture Evolving (principal instructor). University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. |
| 2009 | Ecological Design Studio. University of Vermont. |
| 2008 | Natural History and Field Ecology. University of Vermont. |

Workshops and Intensives

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| 2016 | Permaculture Research Design Course (5 days). University of Lisbon. |
| 2010-2014 | Annual Permaculture Design Course (14 days). Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute. |

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Selected Articles

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| 2014 | Toward 21st Century Permaculture: Critical Questions and Early Answers. <i>Permaculture Activist</i> , (93: Science in Permaculture). |
| 2014 | Toward 21st Century Permaculture: People's Science or Pseudo-science? <i>Permaculture Activist</i> , (93: Science in Permaculture). |

Selected Presentations

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| 2015 | <i>Permaculture and Peoples' Science: The State of the Movement and Beyond</i> . Workshop presented at the 12th International Permaculture Convergence, Essex, UK. |
| 2015 | <i>Liberation Ecology: Designing the Permaculture Movement</i> . Workshop presented at the 12th International Permaculture Convergence, Essex, UK. |
| 2015 | Nesting/Listening: Design, Scale, and Solidarity, from Project to Movement. Workshops presented at Liberation Permaculture, Essex, UK. |

- 2013 *Toward 21st Century Permaculture: People's Science or Pseudo-science?* Talk presented at the 11th International Permaculture Convergence, Jibacoa, Cuba.
- 2011 *Integrated Mushroom Production for Small Farms.* Talk presented at the Northeastern Organic Farming Association - Summer Conference, Amherst, USA.
- 2010 Mushroom Power! Mycoscaping for Growing Power (Integrated Mushroom Production for Urban Eco-agriculture). Workshop series, Growing Power, Chicago.
- 2009 Liberation Ecology: Ecological Strategies and Social Objectives. Workshop, Dartmouth College.
- 2009 Permaculture: Grassroots Ecological Design. Workshop, University of Vermont
- 2008 Permaculture and Sustainable Futures for New York. Cornell Agroforestry Resource Center.