

## Curriculum Vitae of Ashley Colby Fitzgerald

**Contact Information:**

Professional Address: Department of Sociology  
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**Research Interests:** Environmental Sociology; Sociology of Food and Agriculture; Family; Inequality; Sustainability and Resilience; Consumers and Consumption; Globalization; Social Movements; Science, Knowledge and Technology

**Education:**

Ph.D., 2017 (expected), Sociology, Washington State University  
 Dissertation: "Structures and Meanings in Subsistence Food Production: A Pluralistic, Horizontal, Post-Capitalist Social Movement in the Global North." Advisors: Dr. Jennifer Sherman (chair), Dr. Emily Huddart Kennedy, Dr. Lisa McIntyre, Dr. Daniel Block (Chicago State University)

M.A., 2013, Sociology, Washington State University  
 Thesis: "'Taking Care of Yourself From the Ground Up:' Food Self Provisioning in Washington State." Advisors: Dr. Jennifer Sherman (chair), Dr. Lisa McIntyre, Dr. Rose Hayden-Smith

B.A., 2007 Cinema and Media Studies, Psychology, University of Chicago  
 Thesis: "A Reception History of *An Inconvenient Truth*: Documentary Film Inciting Political Mimesis." Advisors: Dr. Judy Hoffman, Dr. Penny Visser

**Current Positions:**

*Doctoral Candidate.* Washington State University, Department of Sociology. 2011-present.  
*Co-director, Co-founder.* Rizoma Field School. Colonia Uruguay. 2016-present.  
*Adjunct Instructor of Sociology.* Washington State University Online. 2013-present.  
*Adjunct Instructor of Sociology.* Ashford University. 2015-present.

**Previous Scientific Positions:**

*Research Assistant.* 2010-2011; 2007-2008. National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago.

*Teaching and Research Assistant.* 2010-2011. Psychology, University of Chicago.

*Advanced Research Assistant.* 2006-2007. Psychology, University of Chicago.

**Work in Progress:**

The current research explores subsistence food production within the Chicago Metropolitan Area, including urban, rural and suburban geographies. Although subsistence agriculture is usually discussed in a less-developed context, recent research suggests that this activity is increasingly common and relevant in de-industrialized cities in the Global North. My findings suggest that subsistence food production is part of a pluralistic, horizontal and amorphous social movement to innovate and adapt to both a post-capitalist future as well as a future of increasing environmental crises. Subsistence food producers are making community connections across surprising dimensions of difference, and are also enacting exciting pro-environmental behaviors even while not identifying as environmentalists. One negative finding is that subsistence food producers may lose interest in political activism against larger systems or structures due to their perceived self-sufficiency and self-protection.

Keywords: Social movement, post-capitalism, food, resilience

**Rizoma Field School:**

Starting in 2016, I am founding a field school for regenerative agriculture and sustainability in Colonia Uruguay. The focus of this school is not only on how to achieve sustainability, but to promote regenerativity. Please see [rizomafieldschool.com](http://rizomafieldschool.com) for more information.

**Publications (Peer Reviewed):**

- 1 **Ashley Colby** and Emily Huddart Kennedy. "Privilege, Power and Paradox: How Community-Based Self-Provisioning Programs Can Fail." *Advances in Medical Sociology*. V. 18. Food Systems and Health. In Review.
- 2 **Ashley Colby**. "'Taking Care of Yourself from the Ground Up:' Food Self Provisioning in Washington State." *Rural Sociology*. In Review.

**Popular Publications:**

- 1 **Colby, Ashley**. "See the world as a farmworker." *Chicago Tribune*. 23 Jan 2011.
- 2 **Colby, Ashley**. "How to navigate a deal on Ryanair." *Chicago Tribune*. 11 Oct 2009.
- 3 **Colby, Ashley**. "Back from tsunami disaster, Thai resort is a divine treat." *Chicago Tribune*. 15 Mar 2009.
- 4 **Colby, Ashley**. "China's Shangri-la is a real dream." *Chicago Tribune*. 23 Aug 2009.

**Presentations:**

**Colby, Ashley**. 2016. "Structures and Meanings in Subsistence Food Production: A Pluralistic, Horizontal, Post-Capitalist Social Movement in the Global North." Presented at the Society for Human Ecology Conference. Santa Ana, CA.

- Colby, Ashley.** 2015. "Structures and Meanings in Subsistence Food Production." Presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Colby, Ashley.** 2015. "Structures and Meanings in Subsistence Food Production." Presented at the Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT) of the American Sociological Association 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mini-Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Colby, Ashley.** 2015. "Structures and Meanings in Subsistence Food Production." Presented at the Pacific Sociological Association 2015 Conference. Long Beach, CA.
- Colby, Ashley.** 2014. "'Taking Care of Yourself From the Ground Up:' Food Self Provisioning in Washington State." Paper presented at the Wiley Research Exposition at Washington State University.

### **Teaching Experience:**

Instructor, Spring 2016, Social Problems (102) and Family (351), Washington State University Online

Instructor, Spring 2016, Research Methods (SOC 333), Ashford University Online

Instructor, Fall 2016, Social Problems (102) and Family (351), Washington State University Online

Instructor, Summer 2016, Social Problems (102), Washington State University Online

Instructor, Spring 2016, General Sociology (101), Moraine Valley Community College, Blue Island, IL

Instructor, Spring 2016, Social Problems (384), Ashford University Online

Instructor, Fall 2015, Social Problems (384), Ashford University Online

Instructor, Fall 2015, General Sociology (101), Moraine Valley Community College, Blue Island, IL

Instructor, Fall 2015, General Sociology (101), Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Heights, IL

Instructor, Summer 2015, Sociology of Gender (384), WSU Online

Instructor, Spring 2015, Sociology of Gender (384), WSU Online

Instructor, Fall 2014, Introduction to Sociology (101), WSU Online

Instructor, Summer 2014, Introduction to Sociology (101), WSU Online

Teaching Assistant, Spring 2012- Fall 2012, Sociology of Service (496) and Sociological Theory (310)

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2011. Introduction to Sociology (101)

### **Research Skills:**

Extensive training in survey design, question construction, and implementation; Extensive training in qualitative research methods including interview, ethnography and participant observation; Knowledge of the STATA statistical program; Knowledge of Dedoose qualitative software; Intermediate Spanish language ability.

### **Grants, Scholarships & Fellowships:**

Dissertation Improvement Grant, WSU, 2016 (\$500)

Foley Graduate Student Fellowship, on behalf of Scott and Betty Lukins, WSU, 2015 (\$600)

Fred R. Yoder Memorial Graduate Fellowship in Sociology, WSU, 2015 (\$1,500)

Boeing Graduate Fellowship in Environmental Studies, WSU, 2014-2015 (\$3,000)

Susan and Sarah Dolan Memorial Scholarship, WSU, 2014 (\$500)

Fred R. Yoder Memorial Graduate Fellowship in Sociology, WSU, 2014 (\$1,870)

Alexander A. Smick Scholarship in Rural Community Service and Development, WSU, 2014 (\$1,500)

Fred R. Yoder Memorial Graduate Fellowship in Sociology, WSU, 2013 (\$1,000)

Susan and Sarah Dolan Memorial Scholarship, WSU, 2012 (\$3,500)

Best First Year Award, WSU, 2012 (\$1,000)

Chicago Fire Department Scholarship, University of Chicago. 2003-2007. (approx. \$164,000, full tuition)

### **University Service:**

Student Member, American Sociological Association. 2011- present.

Member, Section on Science, Knowledge and Technology. 2014-present

Student Member, Pacific Sociological Association. 2011- present.

Student Member, Society for Human Ecology. 2016-present

Member, Sociology Graduate Student Organization, Washington State University. 2011-present.

Member, Colloquia Committee. 2011-2012.

Member, Environment, Agriculture, Resources, Technology and Society (EARTHs), WSU, 2012-present.

Coordinator, Food Day, Washington State University, 2012

Volunteer, WSU Organic Farm, 2012

**Extensive travel to the following countries:** Ecuador, Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize, Argentina, Uruguay, Italy, Spain, Morocco, France, Germany, England, Ireland, Austria, The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Hungary, Czech Republic, Greece, Turkey, Romania, Canada, China, Tibet, Taiwan, India, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Jordan, Israel, Egypt

### **References:**

Ms. Irronda Harrington

Teaching supervisor

Director of Academic Outreach

Moraine Valley Community College

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Dr. Jennifer Sherman

Chair of MA and PhD Committee

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Dr. Lisa McIntyre

Teaching Supervisor

Chair of Department of Sociology

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Dr. Scott Frickel

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Department of Sociology, Chair  
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