

DANIELLE SCHMIDT-LARIOS

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Community & Environmental Sociology
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Formal Education

In Progress PhD, Sociology/Community & Environmental Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dissertation: Reserved: The transition of US Agricultural Land to Conservation Reserves

Committee: Katherine J. Curtis (chair),
Tessa Conroy (UW-Madison Ag & Applied Economics, Extension)

Prelim. Exams: Environmental Sociology (*passed with distinction*)
Sociology of Agrifood Systems

Minor: Geography (2024)

2023 MS, Community & Environmental Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Thesis: Towards an Emplaced Vocabulary of Motive: Understanding the decision-making processes of agricultural landholders in the Upper Missouri River Breaks

Committee: Katherine J. Curtis (chair), Sarah M. Rios, Nan Enstad

2019 AB, Philosophy, Public Policy Studies (*honors*), The University of Chicago

Minor: Human Rights

Research & Teaching Interests

Rural sociology; environmental sociology; mixed-methods; spatial analysis; participatory mapping; ethnography; land tenure; sense of place; agricultural labor; rural community well-being; research ethics; community engaged scholarship

Refereed Publications

Schmidt, Danielle, Tessa Conroy, and Steven Deller. 2025. "Prosperity Across the United States: Revisiting the Isserman, Feser, and Warren Prosperity Index using Social Sequence Analysis." *International Regional Science Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01600176251377424>. (*winner of the Ron Wimberly Award*)

Schmidt, Danielle. 2024. "Towards an Emplaced Vocabulary of Motive: Senses of Place and Land Sale Decision-Making in the Northern Great Plains." *Rural Sociology*, 89(4), 975-995. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ruso.12574>.

Schmidt, Danielle, and Séamus A. Power. 2020. "Offline World: The Internet as Social Infrastructure among the Unconnected in Quasi-Rural Illinois." *Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Science*, 55(2), 371-385. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12124-020-09574-9>

Invited Book Chapters & Reviews

Schmidt, Danielle. 2023. “Farming for sociologists: A new key text for rural sociologists.” *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 12(4), 1–2.
<https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2023.124.004>

Outreach & Public Scholarship

Schmidt, Danielle, Tessa Conroy, and Steven Deller. 2025. “Pathways to Prosperity: Moving Beyond Growth to Evaluate Change in Community Well-Being.” *Choices Magazine* 40 (2).

<https://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/submitted-articles/pathways-to-prosperity-moving-beyond-growth-to-evaluate-change-in-community-well-being>. (peer reviewed)

Schmidt, Danielle, Tessa Conroy, and Steven Deller. 2024. “Understanding Wisconsin Prosperity in the National Context.” *WIndicators*, November 26, 2024.

<https://economicdevelopment.extension.wisc.edu/articles/windicators-volume-7-issue-2-understanding-wisconsin-prosperity-in-the-national-context/>.

Curtis, Katherine J., **Danielle D. Schmidt**, and John C. Canfield. 2024. “Views on the Land.” *Phillips County News*, May 22, 2024. <https://www.phillipscountynews.com/story/2024/05/22/opinion/views-on-the-land/15471.html>.

Rios, Sarah, and **Danielle Schmidt**. 2023. “Survey Summary: A summary of farmworker responses to experiencing wildfires in the workplace.” Prepared for *Líderes Campesinas en California*.

Schmidt, Danielle. “Letter: Tyson the Bison and the Future of Farming.” *Daily Herald*, May 14, 2022. <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20220514/letter-tyson-the-bison-and-the-future-of-farming>.

Curtis, Katherine J., John C. Canfield, and **Danielle D. Schmidt**. “A Report on Population and Ag Production in Phillips County, Montana.” 2021. <https://apl.wisc.edu/shared/conservation-agriculture-rural/phillips-county>.

Manuscripts in Progress

Schmidt-Larios, Danielle. “Three Approaches to Land” (under second review, *Ag and Human Values*)

Boyce, Mckenzie, Yang Cheng, Erin Gaede, and **Danielle Schmidt**. 2026. “Measuring Rural Livability: Challenges, Choices, and Considerations” in *Redefining Community Development Through Rural Livability*

Schmidt, Danielle and Katherine J. Curtis. “Leaving ‘Cowboy Ethnography’ in the Dust and Advancing the Practice of Collaborative Ethnography”

Schmidt-Larios, Danielle. “Quantifying, classifying, and assessing agricultural land loss in the post-Farm Crisis era using remote sensing and administrative data”

Schmidt-Larios, Danielle and Katherine J. Curtis. “To Lose One’s Place: Confronting environmental and community change on the Northern Great Plains”

Schmidt-Larios, Danielle, Mckenzie Boyce, Tessa Conroy, and Steven Deller. “Borrowing Livability”

Curtis, Katherine J. and **Danielle Schmidt-Larios**. “Gentrifying the Prairie: Identifying environmental gentrification processes in a climate-affected western agricultural community”

Schmidt-Larios, Danielle and Sarah M. Rios. “The Manufactured Precarity of Farm Work in a Changing Climate”

Research Positions

2025	<i>Contracted Data Collection</i> , USDA NIFA, AFRI Competitive Grant Rural Informal Work in economically, socially, culturally, and technologically changing contexts Professors Emily Wornell (Ball State), Primary Investigator; Amanda McMillan Lequieu (Drexel) and Jean Hardy (Michigan State), Supervisors
2024-	<i>Graduate Research Assistant</i> , UW-Madison Agriculture & Applied Economics Wisconsin Rural Partnership Initiative: The Rural Livability Project Professors Tessa Conroy & Steve Deller, Primary Investigators
2021-23	<i>Graduate Research Assistant</i> , UW-Madison Community & Environmental Sociology Crisis and Adaptation: How Wildfires Change the Agricultural Workplace Professor Sarah M. Rios, Primary Investigator
2020-21	<i>State Research Assistantship</i> , UW-Madison Community & Environmental Sociology Conflict at the Intersection of Production and Conservation Professor Katherine J. Curtis, Supervisor

Formal Teaching Positions

Fall 2023	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , SOC 125: <i>American Society: How It Really Works</i> , UW-Madison Department of Sociology
Spring 2023	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , ILS 200: <i>Critical Thinking & Expression</i> , UW-Madison Integrated Liberal Studies

Research, Teaching, & Service Awards

Mar. 2025	Ronald Wimberley Graduate Student Paper Competition, Rural Sociological Society
Nov. 2023	Honored Instructor (<i>student nominated</i>), University Housing, UW-Madison
Jun. 2019	Richard P. Taub Prize for Best Thesis, Dept. of Public Policy, The University of Chicago
Nov. 2018	Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Award, UChicago Recipient

Competitive Funding & Research Grants

May 2025	Summer Mini-Grant , Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS), \$2,991.80
Mar. 2025	Dissertation Research Award, Rural Sociological Society, \$2,800.00

May 2024	Evelyn T. Crowe Scholarship – Pre-Dissertation Research, Dept. of Community & Environmental Sociology, UW-Madison, \$2,585.00
May 2022	Evelyn T. Crowe Scholarship – Master’s Thesis Research, Dept. of Community & Environmental Sociology, UW-Madison, \$5,000.00
Mar. 2022	Graduate Student “Small Grant” Competition, Dept. of Sociology, UW-Madison, \$165

Presentations

Nov. 2025	“Former Farms, Future Farming: Quantifying, classifying, and assessing agricultural land loss in the post-Farm Crisis era using remote sensing and administrative data,” North American Regional Science Council Annual Meeting; Denver, CO
Oct. 2025	“Cowboy Ethnography: Challenges of and strategies for collaborative spatial data collection and community engaged methods in the twenty-first century,” American Philosophical Society International Symposium; Philadelphia, PA (<i>view recording here</i>)
Jul. 2025	“Former Farms, Future Farming: Quantifying, classifying, and assessing agricultural land loss in the post-Farm Crisis era using remote sensing and administrative data,” Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting; Salt Lake City, UT
Jul. 2025	“The Spatial Diffusion of Rural Livability Across the Urban-Rural Interface,” Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting; Salt Lake City, UT
Jul. 2025	“To Lose One’s Place: Confronting environmental and community change on the Northern Great Plains,” International Sociological Association Forum of Sociology; Rabat, Morocco
Jun. 2025	“What Makes a Place ‘Livable’? Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference; Wisconsin Rapids, WI (<i>Invited speaker</i>)
Mar. 2025	“The Spatial Diffusion of Rural Livability Across the Urban-Rural Interface,” American Association of Geographers; Detroit, MI
Jul. 2024	“To Lose One’s Place: Confronting environmental and community change on the Northern Great Plains,” Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting; Madison, WI
Nov. 2023	“Wildfires in the Workplace: Understanding the manufactured precarity of farm work in a changing climate,” Social Science History Association Annual Conference; Washington, DC
Apr. 2023	“Pricing the Prairie: Large-Scale Conservation and Early-Stage Rural Gentrification in a Western Agricultural Community,” Population Association of America; New Orleans, LA
Nov. 2022	“A Done Deed: The Socially Contentious Decision to Sell Production Land,” Social Science History Association Annual Conference; Chicago, IL
Jul. 2021	“‘Save the Cowboy’: Large-Scale Conservation and Early-Stage Rural Gentrification in a Western Agricultural Community,” Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting; Virtual

Service to Department & Profession

2025-26	Preproposal Reviewer, North Central Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education (NCR-SARE)
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2025-26	Committee Member, Awards and Endowment Committee, Rural Sociological Society
2023-25	Co-Chair, Rural, Agricultural, and Environmental Network, Social Science History Association
2023	Organizing Committee Member, UW Agroecology Symposium: <i>Relationships for Change</i>
2022	(Interim) Presidential Appointed Graduate Student Representative, Ethics Committee, Rural Sociological Society
2020-22	Board Member, Culture & Climate Committee, UW-Madison Sociology Graduate Student Association

Teaching & Mentoring

Nov 2025	Guest Lecturer, <i>Conservation Biology</i> , Williams College
Oct 2025	Guest Lecturer, CES 248: <i>Environment, Natural Resources, and Society</i> , UW-Madison
Mar 2025	Capstone Project “Expert,” Dept. of Agriculture and Applied Economics, UW-Madison
2024-	ESL Instructor (Adult Education), Madison International Partners
2024-	Research Mentor, AP Capstone Research, Mentor Matching Engine
2020-26	Executive Board Member, Mundelein High School Foundation

Professional Experience

2019-20	<i>Strategic Futures Analyst</i> , Arizona Commerce Authority	Phoenix, AZ
2018-19	<i>Charity Management Consultant</i> , The Giving Back Fund	Los Angeles, CA

Technical Skills

Software:	R, ArcGIS (Pro, StoryMaps), Qualtrics, NVivo
Languages:	English (native), Spanish (intermediate)
Certifications:	(Farmer-oriented) Mental Health First Aid

Professional Memberships

Rural Sociological Society; Social Science History Association; American Association of Geographers