

DANIELLE SCHMIDT-LARIOS

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Community & Environmental Sociology
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Education

- Exp. 2028 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 A.B., 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. "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>.
- 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**. 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>

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>

Outreach & Public Scholarship

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/windications-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, Danielle, Tessa Conroy, and Steven Deller. "Place Prosperity Pathways: Revisiting the Isserman, Feser, and Warren Prosperity Index using Social Sequence Analysis"
[under second review, *International Regional Science Review*]

Schmidt, Danielle and Katherine J. Curtis. "To Lose One's Place: Confronting environmental and community change on the Northern Great Plains"

Schmidt, Danielle, McKenzie Boyce, Tessa Conroy, and Steven Deller. "Livability Across the Urban-Rural Interface"

Schmidt, Danielle and Katherine J. Curtis. "Cowboy Ethnography: Challenges of and strategies for collaborative spatial data collection and community engaged methods in the twenty-first century"

Schmidt, Danielle. "Former Farms, Future Farming: Quantifying, classifying, and assessing agricultural land loss in the post-Farm Crisis era using remote sensing and administrative data"

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

Boyce, McKenzie, **Danielle Schmidt**, Yang Cheng, and Erin Gaede. "Measuring Rural Livability: Challenges, Choices, and Considerations" in *Rural Livability in the United States*

Schmidt, Danielle and Sarah Rios. "The Manufactured Precarity of Farm Work in a Changing Climate"

Research Positions

- 2025 *Contracted Data Collection*, 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- *Graduate Research Assistant*, UW-Madison Agriculture & Applied Economics
Wisconsin Rural Partnership Initiative: The Rural Livability Project
Professors Tessa Conroy & Steve Deller, Primary Investigators
- 2021-23 *Graduate Research Assistant*, UW-Madison Community & Environmental Sociology
Crisis and Adaptation: How Wildfires Change the Agricultural Workplace
Professor Sarah M. Rios, Primary Investigator
- 2020-21 *State Research Assistantship*, UW-Madison Community & Environmental Sociology
Conflict at the Intersection of Production and Conservation
Professor Katherine J. Curtis, Supervisor

Formal Teaching Positions

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

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
- 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

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

Research, Teaching, and 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	Graduate Student Summer Mini-Grant, Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS), \$2,991.80
Mar. 2025	Dissertation Research Award, Rural Sociological Society, \$2,800
May 2024	Evelyn T. Crowe Scholarship – Pre-Dissertation Research, Dept. of Community & Environmental Sociology, UW-Madison, \$2,585
May 2022	Evelyn T. Crowe Scholarship – Master’s Thesis Research, Dept. of Community & Environmental Sociology, UW-Madison, \$5,000
Mar. 2022	Graduate Student “Small Grant” Competition, Dept. of Sociology, UW-Madison, \$165

Service & Involvement

2024-	ESL Instructor (Adult Education), Madison International Partners
2024-	Research Mentor, AP Capstone Research, Mentor Matching Engine
2023-25	Rural, Agricultural, and Environmental Network Co-Chair, Social Science History Association
2020-26	Executive Board Member, Mundelein High School Foundation
2023	Organizing Committee Member, UW Agroecology Symposium: Relationships for Change

2022	(Interim) Presidential Appointed Graduate Student Representative, Ethics Committee, Rural Sociological Society
2020-22	Culture & Climate Committee Board Member, UW-Madison Sociology Graduate Student Association

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)

Professional Memberships

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