

MAIRI CREEDON

mairicreedon@berkeley.edu

Political ecologies and economies of food and natural resource management, transitions to marine aquaculture, ocean biodiversity and seafloor governance, property and access rights, conservation networks, multispecies geographies, the commons, and cultural foodways

EDUCATION

- (2028) **University of California, Berkeley** Berkeley, CA
PhD Student, Environmental Science, Policy, & Management
Land Use Change Lab | *Principal Investigator: Dr. Van Butsic*
Division of Society & Environment | designated emphasis in Folklore
- 2019 **Providence College** Providence, RI
Bachelor of Arts, Quantitative Economics, self-designed major in Sustainability
Summa cum laude
Liberal Arts Honors Program (2015 - 2019)
Semester abroad with IFSA-Butler at the Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand (2017)
Semester abroad with DIS Study Abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark (2018)

PUBLICATIONS

Brydge, M. and **Creedon, M.** (2023). Makoce Agriculture Development Food Systems Study: Exploring the Local Food Economy of the Oglála Lakhóta Oyáte.
<https://sweetgrassconsulting.net/publications/food-systems-study-exploring-the-local-food-economy-of-the-oglala-lakota-oyate>

Creedon, M. (2019). The State of Food Sovereignty: Stories of Food and Community from the Sičangu Lakota Oyaté. Sičangu Community Development Corporation Food Sovereignty Initiative. Available upon request.

Creedon, M. (2019). Aspirations to Empire: American Imperialism, Foreign Policy, and the 1954 Guatemalan Coup d'état. Providence College Digital Commons Economics Student Papers. 3.
https://digitalcommons.providence.edu/economics_students/3

PRESENTATIONS

Creedon, M. (2024). "Cascading Enclosures, Shellfishing, and Mariculture Transitions." Poster presentation at the National Estuarine Research Reserve System annual meeting, October 20 - 24, 2024, Kennebunkport, ME.

Creedon, M. (2024). "Material Culture, Tradition, and the Construction of a 'Culinary Country' in Diaspora."

- Oral presentation at the annual meeting of the Western States Folklore Society, "Living in the Now and Then: Memory and Legacy in Folklore Studies," April 19 - 20, 2024, Los Angeles, CA.
- Oral presentation at the annual conference of the Food Institute Graduate Council at Berkeley, "Diasporic Foods: an exploration of ongoing food relationships and connections," April 5 - 6, 2024, Berkeley, CA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Sweet Grass Consulting

Remote

2022 - Senior Research Manager

2021 - 2022 Independent Contractor

My work centers participatory approaches to systems change by synthesizing culturally relevant techniques for qualitative and quantitative data collection, analysis, and communication. I work in partnership with asset-based organizations to conduct feasibility and market studies, strategic planning, and impact tracking and reporting. **Notable projects** focus on agriculture and food systems, land management, and equitable financing for economic and community development.

- Project manager, lead researcher, and author of a 10-year impact report for an Indigenous food sovereignty nonprofit organization on the Northern Great Plains (2024).
- Co-manager, researcher, and co-author for a Regional Food Connections study of the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota (2022 - 2023).
- Project manager & lead researcher and author for a community foods study (2022 - 2023) on the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota.
- Conducted interviews with students and representatives of tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) and partner organizations across the United States to inform strategic planning for the environmental stewardship department of an Indigenous higher education non-profit. Wrote a literature review, assisted with focus group facilitation, analyzed qualitative and survey data (2022) and analyzed and authored a multi-TCU program impact study (2023).
- Co-authored a study that assessed the feasibility of establishing individually owned bison caretaking operations for community development and eco-cultural revitalization across Indian Country (2021 - 2022). Authored a mobile buffalo harvest feasibility study (2023).
- Conducted and analyzed interviews with leaders across the Native agriculture industry (fundors, policymakers, ranchers, and technical assistance providers), supported focus group facilitation, analyzed a national producer survey, created regional reports, and co-authored a national market study to identify the needs of Native food producers and their current financing gaps (2022).
- Provided research, reporting, and facilitation services in support of a partnership between a leading Indigenous agriculture non-profit and California Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS-CA). Conducted a literature review of peer-reviewed and federal agency research on prescribed burning and tribal cultural burns for the regeneration of eco-cultural resources in California and assisted with facilitation of a focus group discussion between tribal cultural burners and California state and federal agency representatives (2021). Analyzed qualitative and secondary data and wrote a report on the experiences of Native foodways practitioners in California (presented at a virtual tribal speaker series event in November 2022).

Sičangu Co.

Mission, SD

2019 - 2021 Native Food Sovereignty Fellow

- Co-designed community assessments, conducted interviews, coordinated focus groups, and led research and analysis as author of the report “The State of Food Sovereignty: Stories of Food and Community from the Sičangu Lakota Oyaté,” which explored the historical roots, current reality, and future possibilities of the Sičangu Lakota (Rosebud Sioux) food system
- Coordinated two market feasibility studies to assess opportunities for growing a local foods economy via a mobile grocery store and food distribution hub

Ceres

Boston, MA

2018 State Policy Intern

- Tracked emerging state legislation in the renewable energy & green transportation sectors

- Wrote policy briefs and sign-on letters for corporate partners; maintained a state-specific database of Environmental Social Governance practices & Corporate Social Responsibility policies for the operations of Fortune 500 corporations (*September - December*)

Seatuck Environmental Association

Islip, NY

2018 Conservation Policy Intern

- Wrote a literature review/white paper on the economic and environmental impacts and benefits of removing Long Island, New York's 98 small dams to restore migratory fish populations to inland waterways (*July - August*)

Undergraduate Research in Political Economy

Providence, RI

- 2019 Econometric research on county-level geographies of poverty in the United States
- 2018 Econometric research on environmental policy determinants of the global waste trade (gravity model, Economics senior capstone research)
- 2018 International political economy senior thesis on American economic and foreign policies as they relate to the 1954 Guatemalan coup d'état and U.S. land grabbing in Latin America (*Aspirations to Empire: American Imperialism, Foreign Policy, and the 1954 Guatemalan Coup d'état*)
- 2018 Invited to present "Genocide via Sterilization: Peru, 1996 - 2000" (2017) at Providence College's Making History Conference, which investigated links between U.S. foreign food aid policy and Indigenous genocide in Peru
- 2017 Agricultural economics independent study course with a culminating thesis investigating ties between U.S. agricultural subsidies and the global impacts of U.S. food aid

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

2024 Undergraduate Research Mentor, University of California, Berkeley (*June - July*)

Fall 2023 Graduate Student Instructor, University of California, Berkeley
 ESPM 60: Environmental Policy, Administration, and Law
Sole graduate instructor for the course (62 students). Created lesson plans for and led weekly discussion sections, served as lead contact for students, graded assignments and exams.

2020 - 2021 Sičangu Co. Mission, SD
 Co-designed & delivered curriculum for youth gardening apprenticeship (ages 10 - 18), supervised garden interns (age 18+)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2024 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow (\$159,000)

2024 - 2026 National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Margaret A. Davidson Fellow
Seaweed Bioremediation and the Socio-Economic Dimensions of Coastal Management in the Elkhorn Slough (\$120,000)
Mentors: Dr. Daniel R. Brumbaugh and John Haskins, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Castroville/Watsonville, CA

2019 Providence College Phillips Memorial Library Undergraduate Craft of Research Prize
Aspirations to Empire: American Imperialism, Foreign Policy, and the 1954 Guatemalan Coup d'état

2015 - 2019 Providence College St. Dominic Scholarship (*4-years full-tuition merit award*)

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

University of California, Berkeley

Graduate Student Association | Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management

- 2024 - 2025 Society and Environment Division Representative to the Graduate Programs Committee
- Admissions Committee Representative
- 2024 - 2025 Secretary
- Critical Agrifood Working Group** of the Food Institute Graduate Council at Berkeley
- 2024 - 2025 Co-Organizer
- 2023 - 2024 Founding Member

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Western States Folklore Society (2024)
- UAW 2865 (2023)
- Omicron Delta Epsilon International Honor Society in Economics (2019)

GRANT WRITING & FUNDRAISING

- 2024 University of California, Berkeley, Blum Center for Developing Economies
Rudd Family Foundation **Big Ideas Contest**: *Cottage Co.* (\$5,000)
- 2023 co-writer, **Slow Food Negroni Week Fund**: *Flour Power*, a community-powered bread baking donation cooperative on eastern Long Island, NY (\$8,000)
- 2020 co-writer, **Rockefeller Foundation Food System Vision Prize** Top Ten Visionary: *7Gen Food System*, a 25-year plan to re-establish food sovereignty for the Sičangu Lakota Oyaté/Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Sičangu Co./Rosebud Economic Development Corporation, Mission, SD (\$200,000)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2024 **SPAT**
Southold/Suffolk Project in Aquaculture Training at Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Labs, oyster garden volunteer, Southold, NY (*June - July*)
- 2023 **Slow Food East End**
Flour Power grant writer, Long Island, NY
AmeriCorps VISTA (*Volunteer in Service to America*)
- 2019 - 2021 Sičangu Co. Native Food Sovereignty Fellow, Mission, SD
Co-developed, launched, and managed a community seed distribution network, sharing over 11,000 free seed packets with community members and organizations in 2020 and 2021
Grant reviewer for America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative, a USDA Targeted Small Grants Program (2020)
Managed nonprofit finances (over \$500,000 annually in grant funding), handled financial reporting to federal agencies and other grantors, developed financial tracking databases & operational budgets (2019 - 2020)
Keya Wakpala Garden market farmer and Sičangu Harvest Market staff support

MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

- 2021 Audio Editor, Black Desserts
Edited audio for season 2 of the podcast Black Desserts, which shares stories of Black dessert traditions from the African diaspora and the continent. Produced by Whetstone Creative Media Agency for Black Food Folks.
- 2020 - 2021 Sičangu Co. Food Sovereignty Media Coordinator
Led media outreach: developed, produced, and edited *Food Revolution* podcast

and radio show (KINI 96.1 FM), launched and wrote *Seeding Sovereignty*
newsletter & blog

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages

English (Native)

German (Goethe-Zertifikat B2)

Spanish (conversational)

Certifications

Open Water Diver (*PADI*)

Permaculture Designer (*Permaculture Institute of North America*)

Wilderness First Aid & CPR