

MAIRI CREEDON

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Political ecologies and economies of food and natural resource management, the commons, and cultural foodways

EDUCATION

- (2028) **University of California, Berkeley** Berkeley, CA
PhD Student, Environmental Science, Policy, & Management
Land Use Change Lab
Division of Society & Environment | designated emphasis in Folklore
- 2019 **Providence College** Providence, RI
Bachelor of Arts, Quantitative Economics
Bachelor of Arts, self-designed major in Sustainability
GPA: 3.88 (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

Creedon, M. (2019). The State of Food Sovereignty: Stories of Food and Community from the Sicangu Lakota Oyate. Sicangu Community Development Corporation Food Sovereignty Initiative. Retrieved May 15, 2022 from <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/92c17880-aa9b-48a9-b42b-ea8c9dda8c2b/downloads/The%20State%20of%20Food%20Sovereignty.pdf?ver=1651239000560>

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). "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 Berkeley Food Institute Graduate Council, "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 participatory research that informs 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.

- Conducted and analyzed interviews with leaders across the Native agriculture industry (funders, 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)
- 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)
- 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).
- 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).
- Project manager & lead researcher and author for a community foods study (2022 - 2023) on the Cheyenne River Reservation, SD
- Co-manager, researcher, and co-author for a Regional Food Connections study of the Pine Ridge Reservation (2022 - 2023)

Sicangu 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 Sicangu Lakota Oyate,” which explored the historical roots, current reality, and future possibilities of the Sicangu 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 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 on the economic and environmental impacts and benefits of small dam removal for the restoration of migratory fish populations to inland waterways on Long Island, New York (*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 (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

- July 2024 - Undergraduate Research Mentor, University of California, Berkeley
- Fall 2023 Graduate Student Instructor, University of California, Berkeley
ESPM 60: Environmental Policy, Administration, and Law
sole instructor; created lesson plans for and led discussion sections, lead contact for students, graded assignments and exams
- 2020 - 2021 Sicangu Co. Mission, SD
Designed & delivered curriculum for youth gardening apprenticeship (ages 10 - 18), supervised garden interns (age 18+)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2024 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow
- 2024 - 2026 National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Margaret A. Davidson Fellow
- 2019 Providence College Undergraduate Craft of Research Prize
- 2015 - 2019 Providence College St. Dominic Scholarship (*4-years full-tuition merit award*)

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- Critical Agrifood Working Group**
Food Institute Graduate Council, Berkeley Food Institute, University of California, Berkeley
- 2024 - 2025 Co-Facilitator
- 2023 - 2024 Founding Member
- Graduate Student Association**
Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management, University of California, Berkeley
- 2024 - 2025 Secretary
- 2024 - 2025 Society and Environment Division Representative to the Graduate Programs Committee
- SPAT**
- 2024 Southold Project In Aquaculture Training oyster garden volunteer, Southold, NY (*June - July*)
- Slow Food East End**
- 2023 Flour Power grant writer, Long Island, NY
- AmeriCorps VISTA** (*Volunteer in Service to America*)
- 2019 - 2021 Sicangu 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 Sicangu Harvest Market staff support

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 : <i>Cottage Co.</i> (\$5,000)
2023	co-writer, Slow Food Negroni Week Fund : <i>Flour Power</i> , 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: <i>7Gen Food System</i> , a 25-year plan to re-establish food sovereignty for the Sicangu Lakota Oyate/Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Sicangu Co., Mission, SD (\$200,000)

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	Sicangu Co. Media Coordinator Led media outreach: developed, produced, and edited <i>Food Revolution</i> podcast and radio show (KINI 96.1 FM), launched and wrote <i>Seeding Sovereignty</i> newsletter & blog

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages

- English (Native)
- German (Goethe-Zertifikat B2)
- Spanish (conversational)

Software

- Stata
- Microsoft Excel
- Adobe Audition
- MAXQDA

Certifications

- Open Water Diver (PADI)
- Permaculture Designer (Permaculture Institute of North America)
- Wilderness First Aid & CPR