

# SASHA PESCI

*Department of Geology, Environment, and  
Sustainability*  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**Assistant Professor of Sustainability** (tenure-track), Hofstra University, NY Sept 2023-Present

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## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D. Geography, Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research** Sep. 2023  
University of California, Davis  
*Advisor:* Dr. Ryan Galt  
*Advanced to Candidacy:* December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
*Dissertation:* “Fresh food just a click away: alternative food networks in the face of market digitalization”
- M.A. Geography** June 2019  
University of California, Davis  
*Advisor:* Dr. Catherine Brinkley  
*Thesis:* “Can a Farm-to-Table Restaurant Bring about Change in the Food System?: A Case Study of Chez Pannisse”
- B.S. Geography** May 2014  
**B.A. Environmental Science**  
Stetson University  
Graduated *Magna Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa  
Minors in Latin American Studies and Digital Arts  
*Advisor:* Dr. Anthony Abbott  
*Thesis:* “Climate change mitigation and adaptation in Central Florida Farms”

**Languages:** Spanish (first language), English (fluent), Hebrew (intermediate)

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## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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### *Publications*

- Pesci, S.**, R.E. Galt, J.L. Durant, G.M. Manser, L. Asprooth, N. Pinzón. 2023 “A digital divide in direct market farmers’ online sales and marketing: early pandemic evidence from California.” *Journal of Rural Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2023.103038>
- Haring, S., **S. Pesci**, G.M. Manser, M. Cooper. “Rethinking scientists’ ongoing participation in “feeding the world.”” 2023. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2023.1174704/full>
- Durant, J.L., L. Asprooth, Galt, R.E., **S. Pesci**, G.M. Manser, N. Pinzón. 2023. “Farm resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic: the case of California direct market farmers.” *Agricultural Systems*. doi:10.1016/j.agsy.2022.103532

**Pesci, S.**, and C. Brinkley. 2021. "Can a Farm-to-Table Restaurant Bring about Change in the Food System?: A Case Study of Chez Panisse." *Food, Culture & Society*. doi:10.1080/15528014.2021.1948754.

Brinkley, C., G.M. Manser, and **S. Pesci**. 2021. "Growing Pains in Local Food Systems: A Longitudinal Social Network Analysis on Local Food Marketing in Baltimore County, Maryland and Chester County, Pennsylvania." *Agriculture and Human Values*. doi:10.1007/s10460-021-10199-w.

*Manuscripts in review*

**Pesci, S.**, J. Durant, G.M. Manser, R.E. Galt., L. Asprooth, N. Pinzón, E. Reyes. "Direct market farmers' use of online sales and marketing during the COVID-19 pandemic and forms of support needed" Manuscript in review in *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*.

*Manuscripts in preparation*

**Pesci, S.** and R.E. Galt. "An alternative digital technology treadmill?: California's direct market farmers facing market digitalization." Manuscript in preparation for *Economic Geography*.

**Pesci, S.** and R.E. Galt. "Who can live their values?: Breaking down inequalities in digital technology use among direct market farmers in California." Manuscript in preparation for *Agriculture and Human Values*.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Student Researcher**, Food Systems (Galt) lab, UC Davis Jul-Sep 2022

- Conducted semi-structured interviews with farmers in English and Spanish about their use of and relationship with online technologies for sales and marketing

**Graduate Student Researcher**, Center for Educational Effectiveness, UC Davis Aug-Sep 2022

- Designed a workshop to train incoming Teaching Assistants at Teaching Assistant Orientation
- Contributed to the design of self-paced online modules for Teaching Assistant Orientation
- Mentored graduate student instructors on their teaching strategies in one-on-one consultations

**Graduate Student Researcher**, Food Systems (Galt) lab, UC Davis Jul-Sep 2021

- Collaborated with Ph.D. students, a postdoc, and our faculty advisor to design a study about farmers' experience of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Designed a survey instrument on Qualtrics that collected quantitative data
- Translated a survey from English to Spanish

**Graduate Student Researcher**, Public Scholarship and Engagement, UC Davis Mar-Sep 2020

- Coded and analyzed data on UC Davis' community partnerships using Excel
- Wrote a report of research findings about community partnerships for the Chancellor
- Conducted a systematic literature review about the evaluation of community engagement in the tenure and promotion process

**Graduate Research Assistant**, Energy, Land, Food Systems Lab, UC Davis Jun-Dec 2018

- Collected data from online sources to build social network map of local food networks in Chester County, Pennsylvania
- Cleaned and prepared database using R and Excel

- Contributed to social network mapping and manuscript writing

**Research Intern**, Movement for Israeli Urbanism, Tel Aviv, Israel Jan-Jun 2015

- Researched case studies of urban revitalization projects in different parts of the world
- Presented findings at a national urban studies conference in Lod, Israel

**Environmental Conservation Intern**, Universidad Autónoma de Campeche Yum Kaax, Campeche, Mexico Jul-Aug 2012

- Assisted with data collection for sea turtle conservation program
- Monitored sea turtle nests with a local team of researchers
- Documented trash on the shore through photographs
- Wrote a report about the effects of trash on the shore
- Translated and designed environmental education brochures to disseminate in the university

***Completed individual research projects***

Master's Thesis, University of California, Davis June 2019  
*Advisor:* Dr. Catherine Brinkley

- Designed and completed a qualitative case study of Berkeley restaurant, Chez Panisse
- Conducted semi-structured interviews, online surveys, archival work, and social network analysis to evaluate influences of the restaurant on sustainable agriculture

Independent Study, Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, Israel June 2016  
*Advisor:* Dr. Miri Lavi-Neeman

- Designed and completed a qualitative case study as part of independent research class over the course of one year
- Conducted semi-structured interviews and participant observations to analyze the changes in a kibbutz community's approach to agriculture and food sourcing

Bachelor's Thesis, Stetson University May 2014  
*Advisor:* Dr. Anthony Abbott

- Designed and completed a case study about farmers' attitudes toward climate change and their approaches to agriculture
- Designed and implemented an online survey
- Used quantitative analysis to examine the relationship between farmers' attitudes toward climate change and their agricultural practices

**RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Contractor**, Community Alliance with Family Farmers, California Apr 2022-Mar 2023

- Provided direct technical support to farmers on identifying and utilizing online technologies
- Developed resources about online technologies for farmers, including a tutorial video about how to create a Google Business Profile in Spanish
- Designed and facilitated four workshops about online technologies for farmers (3 in Spanish and 1 in English).
- Designed and facilitated two workshops about online technologies in Spanish at two farmer conferences: EcoFarm and the Small Farms Conference.

**Farm educator**, Eden Village Camp, Putnam Valley, NY Jun-Sep 2016, Jun-Sep 2017

- Designed and facilitated farm education workshops for kids 11-16 years old.

**Community Organizer**, Center for Community Engagement, Stetson University, Deland, Florida Aug 2012-Jun 2014

- Organized and facilitated educational events about food justice and sustainability

- Organized volunteer opportunities at local farms and managed volunteers

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### University of California, Davis, Davis, CA

**Associate Instructor**, CRD 141: Org. of Economic Space Jan-Mar 2022 [hybrid], Apr-Jun 2023

- Updated course syllabus
- Designed and graded assignments
- Planned and gave 2 lectures per week
- Supervised 1 Teaching Assistant

**Associate Instructor**, CRD 142: Rural Change in the Industrialized World Jan-Mar 2023

- Designed syllabus and course format
- Plan and give 2 lectures per week
- Supervise 1 Teaching Assistant and 1 reader

**Associate Instructor**, LDA 10: World Regional Geography Mar-Jun 2021 [online], Mar-Jun 2022

- Designed syllabus and course format
- Designed and graded assignments and quizzes
- Planned and facilitated class sessions

**Associate Instructor**, CRD 20: Food Systems Sep-Dec 2021

- Updated course syllabus and lab manual
- Designed and graded assignments
- Planned and gave 2 lectures/week
- Supervised 3 Teaching Assistants

**Teaching Assistant**, Various Departments Sep 2017-Fall 2022

- Organized and facilitated discussion sections or labs (25 students)
- Graded assignments and exams
- Provided one-on-one academic support to students during office hours

*Courses taught as a TA:* CRD 20: Food Systems; WMS 50: Intro to Gender Studies; AMS 55: Food in American Culture; WMS 182: Globalization, gender, and culture; ESP 171: Urban and Regional Planning; CRD 158: Community Governance; LDA 1: Intro to Environmental Design

**Arava Institute for Environmental Studies**, Ktara, Israel Spring 2016

**Teaching Assistant**, Environmental Leadership Seminar

- Assisted with planning and facilitation of class sessions
- Provided support to students on their applied projects for the course

**Stetson University**, Deland, FL Spring 2011

**Teaching Assistant**, CS 1: Intro to Programming

- Held office hours to support students 1:1 with their difficulties in the course
- Helped students with programming problems during class sessions

## INVITED LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, AND PRESENTATIONS

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### *Guest lectures*

“Gender and agriculture” in WMS 182: Globalization, Gender, and Culture, UC Davis, Feb. 2020.

“Agroecology in Argentina” in WMS 182: Globalization, Gender, and Culture, UC Davis, Feb. 2020.  
“Local Food Systems” in CRD 158: Community Governance, UC Davis, March 2018.

### ***Conference Presentations***

- Pesci, S.** “A digital technology treadmill: how California’s direct market farmers experience the trend toward online sales and marketing.” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, virtual, March 2023.
- Pesci, S.** “Tedious and complicated: how are farmers navigating online sales, marketing, and outreach in the digital era?” Cultivating Connections - 2022 AFHVS/ASFS Conference, virtual, May 2022.
- Pesci, S.** “Tedious and complicated: how are farmers navigating online sales, marketing, and outreach in the digital era?” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, virtual, April 2022.
- Pesci, S.** “Fresh food just a click away: producers and online commerce during the COVID-19 pandemic” Just Food: Because it’s never just food, virtual, June 2021.
- Durant, J., Manser, G.M., **Pesci, S.**, Asprooth, L., Galt, R. “Pandemic pivots: California’s Regional Agri-Food Systems Resilience and Adaptation to the COVID-19 pandemic,” Just Food: Because it’s never just food, virtual, June 2021.
- Pesci, S.** “Fresh food just a click away: producers and online commerce during the COVID-19 pandemic” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, virtual, April 2021.
- Durant, J., Manser, G.M., **Pesci, S.**, Asprooth, L., Galt, R. “California’s Regional Agri-Food Systems: Resilience and Adaptation to the COVID-19 pandemic,” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, virtual, April 2021.
- Pesci, S.** “Cultivating a Palate: food geographies and the politics of embeddedness in the 50 years of Chez Panisse,” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., 2019.
- Pesci, S.** “Cultivating a Palate: food geographies and the politics of embeddedness in the 50 years of Chez Panisse,” Natural Foods Symposium, UC Davis, 2019.
- Pesci, S.** “Cultivating a Palate: food geographies and the politics of embeddedness in the 50 years of Chez Panisse,” International Conference on Food Studies, Vancouver, BC, 2019.
- Pesci, S.** “Cultivating a Palate: food geographies and the politics of embeddedness in the 50 years of Chez Panisse,” Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Conference, 2018.
- Pesci, S.** “How do local food networks change landscapes?” Eating for Change Symposium, UC Davis, 2018.
- Pesci, S.** “Urban revitalization of the public space in the social periphery: examples from the world,” Urbanism First Conference, Lod, Israel, 2019
- Pesci, S.** “Getting smart about agriculture: climate change mitigation and adaptation in Central Florida Farms,” Stetson University Showcase Symposium, Deland, FL, May 2014.
- Pesci, S.** and Stullken, J. “We can dig it: encouraging environmental responsibility and community development through campus gardens and farmers’ markets” IMPACT National Conference, Valparaiso, IN. March 2014.

### ***Outreach Presentations and Workshops for Farmers***

- “Apps útiles para su negocio agrícola” [Useful apps for your farm business] Facilitated by **Sasha Pesci** at the Small Farms Conference, Virtual, Mar 2023.
- “Pasos sencillos para aumentar la presencia en línea de su granja” [Easy steps to increase your farm’s online presence] Facilitated by **Sasha Pesci** at Ecofarm in Asilomar, CA. Jan 2023.
- “Entrenamiento en Tecnología: Cómo organizar sus documentos” [Technology training: How to organize your documents] Facilitated by **Sasha Pesci** in Salinas, CA, Aug 2022.
- “Entrenamiento en Tecnología: Apps para su negocio” [Technology training: Apps for your business] Facilitated by **Sasha Pesci** in Salinas, CA, Aug 2022.

- “Small Farm Online Technology” Facilitated by Alicia Baddorf and **Sasha Pesci** at Small Farm Technology Workshop, Shone Farm, Santa Rosa CA, Aug 2022.
- “Ventas por Internet para Pequeños Agricultores” [Online sales for small farms] Facilitated by Phil Minnick and **Sasha Pesci** at Whiskey Hill Farms, Watsonville CA, Feb 2022.
- “Online Sales 101 for the Small Farm” Facilitated by Elizabeth Vaughan, Alicia Baddorf, and **Sasha Pesci** at the Small Farms Conference, Virtual, Feb 2022.

#### ***Workshops for Graduate Student Instructors***

- “Writing a Teaching Statement for the Academic Job Market.” Facilitated by **Sasha Pesci** and Bryan Currinder at the Center for Educational Effectiveness (virtual), UC Davis, Oct 2022.
- “Working as a TA at UC Davis.” Facilitated by **Sasha Pesci** and Harleen Bal at the Teaching Assistant Orientation, UC Davis, Sep 2022.
- “Delving Deeper into Anti-racist Teaching Practices.” Facilitated by **Sasha Pesci**, Gwen Chodur, and Peter Torres at the Center for Educational Effectiveness, UC Davis, Apr 2022.
- “Self-Assessments and Peer Feedback: Strategies for Saving Time and Adding Value to Student Learning.” Facilitated by **Sasha Pesci**, Shelley Dykstra, and Jasmine Wade at the Center for Educational Effectiveness, UC Davis, Feb 2022.
- “Getting to Know What Your Students Know: Simple Strategies to Assess Student Learning.” Facilitated by **Sasha Pesci**, Hannah Nelson, and Beshara Kehdi at the Center for Educational Effectiveness, UC Davis, Oct 2021.
- “Building community, active learning, and assessments.” Teaching Assistant Orientation workshop facilitated by **Sasha Pesci**, Hannah Nelson, and Daisy Underhill at the Center for Educational Effectiveness, UC Davis, Sep 2021.

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#### **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

**Mentor**, Mentor-Mentee Program in Humanities, Arts, Cultural Studies and Social Sciences (MMP-HARCSS), UC Davis, Jan-Dec 2023.

**Admissions Committee**, Geography Graduate Group, UC Davis, Jan 2022.

**Panelist**, meeting for incoming graduate students, Geography Graduate Group, Oct 2021.

**Lab Steward**, Galt Lab, UC Davis, Sep 2020-Jun 2021.

**Session organizer**, “The COVID-19 pandemic and the agri-food system: changes, challenges, and opportunities,” AAG annual meeting, virtual, April 2021.

**Session chairperson**, “The COVID-19 pandemic and the agri-food system: changes, challenges, and opportunities,” AAG annual meeting, virtual, April 2021.

**Chapter President**, Gamma Theta Upsilon Geographical Honor Society, UC Davis, 2019-2020.

**Organizer and Website Manager**, UC Davis Political Ecology Lab, Sep 2018-Jun 2020.

**Planning Committee**, Geography Graduate Group Speaker Series, UC Davis, 2018-2019.

**Conference Assistant**, AAG Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., April 2019.

**Planning Committee**, Arava Institute Alumni Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2019.

**Writing Retreat Organizer**, Energy, Land, Food Systems Lab, UC Davis, Nov 2018.

**Lab Group Manager**, Energy, Land, Food Systems Lab, UC Davis, 2018-2019.

**Admissions Committee**, Geography Graduate Group, UC Davis, Jan 2018.

**Social Event Coordinator** (First Fridays), Geography Graduate Group, UC Davis, 2018-2019.

**GLOBAL member** (student social club), Geography Graduate Group, UC Davis, 2018-2019.

**Student Orientation Planning Committee**, Geography Graduate Group, UC Davis, 2018-2019.

**Graduate Student Representative of Internal Steering Committee**, Agriculture Sustainability Institute, UC Davis, 2018-2019.

#### ***Manuscript peer reviewer***

Journal of Food Policy

Journal of Food, Culture, and Society  
Journal of Agriculture, Food, and Human Values

***Undergraduate leadership***

Founder and President, Stetson Environmental Coalition, Stetson University, Deland, FL, 2014  
Head Gardener, Hatter Harvest, Stetson University, Deland, FL, 2013-2014

**HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

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***Research grants and awards***

UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program Small Grant (\$10,000)	2022
Henry A. Jastro Research Award (\$3,000), UC Davis	2021
Unhatching Research Graduate Summer Research Grant (\$1,000), Hatch Mellon Research Initiative on Feminist Arts and Sciences, UC Davis	2021
Graduate Students Grant (\$1,000), UC Davis Women's Resources and Research Center	2020
Henry A. Jastro Research Award (\$3,000), UC Davis	2019
Gamma Theta Upsilon Travel (\$250) Award for AAG Conference	2019
Henry A. Jastro Research Award (\$2,100), UC Davis	2018

***Fellowships, scholarships, honors***

Graduate Teaching Fellow (\$4,500), Center for Educational Effectiveness, UC Davis	2022
Geography Fellowship (\$3,000), Geography Graduate Group, UC Davis	2022
Graduate Teaching Fellow (\$4,500), Center for Educational Effectiveness, UC Davis	2021
Annie's Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship (\$10,000), Annie's Homegrown	2020
Non-resident Tuition Fellowship, Geography Graduate Group, UC Davis	2020
Non-resident Tuition Fellowship, Geography Graduate Group, UC Davis	2019
Gamma Theta Upsilon Geographical Honor Society	2018
Emerging Scholar Award, International Conference on Food Studies, B.C., Canada	2018
Non-resident Tuition Fellowship, Geography Graduate Group, UC Davis	2018

***Collaborative grants***

Co-lead grant writer and organizer. "Asking Different Questions podcast" Feminist Research Institute (\$500), UC Davis	2021
Co-lead grant writer and organizer. "Public Political Ecology Lab" Davis Humanities Institute Trans-college Research Clusters Grant (\$5,000), UC Davis	2019
Co-lead grant writer and organizer. "Critical Perspectives on Feeding the World Symposium" Campus Global Theme Mini-Grant (\$1,500), UC Davis	2019

***Undergraduate grants and awards***

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society	2014
The Rachel Carson Award	2014
Outstanding Senior in Environmental Science and Geography	2014
Outstanding Senior in Latin American Studies	2014
Hollis Grant for Mentored Field Experience in Peru	2013
Outstanding Junior in Environmental Science and Geography	2013
The Lorax Book Award for Student Environmental Activism	2013
Dean's Scholarship	2010-2014

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING**

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- Food Not Bombs Davis, Davis, CA. Helped with free meal deliveries in Davis, Mar-Jun 2020.
- Food First, Oakland, CA. Translator of chapters and articles (English to Spanish), 2018-2020.
- Atitlan Organics, Lago Atitlan, Guatemala, Volunteered at the farm for one week, Aug 2019.
- Sadhana Forest, Anse-a-Pitre, Haiti. Volunteered at a reforestation project (nursery care, tree-planting) and contributed to community tasks (e.g., cooking) for 2 weeks, Dec 2016.
- Kibbutz Ktura Community Garden, Ktura, Israel. Volunteered at the garden, 2015-2016.
- Bubbles Not Bullets, Ktura, Israel. Student activism film project at Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, 2015-2016.
- Aldeia Ecovillage, Itacaré, Brazil. Volunteered at the farm for 2 weeks, Nov 2014.
- Cosmic Dance Permaculture, Watsonville, CA. Volunteered farm labor for 2 weeks, Jul 2014.
- Planted Earth Farm, Deland, FL. Volunteered farm labor, 2013-2014.
- Stetson University Hatter Harvest, Deland, FL. Participated in student-led community garden for two years and served as head gardener for one year. Planned and organized monthly farmers markets on campus, 2012-2014.

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

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### *Certificates, Trainings, Workshops*

Horticulture Certificate, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, In Progress.  
 Teaching Assistant Consultant training, UC Davis, Sep 2021.  
 Asking Different Questions Training (social justice values in research), UC Davis, Jan-Mar 2020.  
 Teaching Assistant Orientation, UC Davis, Sep 2017.  
 Staff Training and Farm Educator Training, Eden Village Camp, NY, July 2016.  
 Nonviolent Communication Training, ECO-ME (Israeli-Palestinian eco-community), Jericho, Palestine, 2016.  
 Environmental Leadership Certificate, Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, Israel, Aug 2015-Jul 2016.  
 Climate Reality Leadership Training by A. Al Gore, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Nov 2014.  
 National Meeting for Agroecology Groups, São Paulo, Brazil, Nov 2014.  
 Resident Assistant Training, Stetson University, Deland, FL, Sep 2011.

### *Programs and courses*

Biodiversity and Agroecology Pre-conference Course, UN Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina, Sep 2019.  
 Feminist, and Decolonial Methods in Social and Solidarity Economies, El Cambalache, San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, Aug 2019.  
 Environmental Studies and Peace-building Program, Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, Ktura, Israel, Aug 2015-Jul 2016.  
 Summer Program in Sustainable Community Development, EARTH University, Costa Rica, Jul 2013.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society, 2021-Present  
 Gamma Theta Upsilon Geographical Honor Society, 2018-Present  
 Association of American Geographers, 2017-Present