

DATE: 27 April 2020

FROM: Matthew Sanderson, Editor-in-Chief

SUBJECT: *Agriculture and Human Values* Special Collection: COVID-19, Agriculture, and Human Values

To start, you are very likely among the more fortunate in our world if you are reading this article. Many people, including those now formally deemed ‘essential’ – nurses, doctors, grocery store clerks, farmworkers – will undoubtedly have much more urgent things to do. Among the many things that COVID-19 is making much clearer is who does the work of our agricultural and food systems, and who reaps most of the benefits.

This collection of articles is unorthodox for *Agriculture and Human Values*, or any scholarly journal for that matter. *Agriculture and Human Values* has developed into the leading international outlet for critical scholarly research on agriculture, food systems, and the values that shape them. Given the close connections between COVID-19 and our agriculture and food systems, I find it imperative in this moment to open conversations about these connections to a much broader cross-section of people living and working in agriculture and food systems than would normally contribute to *Agriculture and Human Values*. In this moment, *Agriculture and Human Values* can be a space to engage scholars, farmers, activists, eaters and others in the food system. While we must not minimize the tremendous toll of COVID-19, opportunities are emerging to re-imagine and re-work agriculture and food systems, perhaps in line with different values. This was the motivation for this collection.

But, how to do this? Could it be possible to pull together a collection of articles that was at least somewhat representative – of perspectives, of positions in food systems, of world region, etc. – given the tremendous scope of COVID-19? And, would it be even possible for potential authors to write at this time?

The response to my initial solicitations of authors was overwhelming, and truly inspiring. After editorial introductions by myself and Associate Editor, Alison Blay-Palmer, Rachel Carey, and Elodie Valette, I list the contributors in alphabetical order by corresponding author, with the titles of their essays.

So many people, from so many places in the world, and from so many different vantage points graciously agreed to contribute. And, so many agreed *enthusiastically*. I asked each author to write a very brief piece in the style of an essay for the public. I did not impose a particular theme for their article, other than to ask them to consider these questions: What should we learn from this terrifying, strange, unprecedented time? What does your work tell us about this time, the role(s) of agriculture and food systems in this time, and what we might do going forward?

I want to express my gratitude to the authors that contributed to this collection. They wrote briefly, which can be a difficult task, especially given the complexity of the topic (and, especially for academics more accustomed to 10,000-word articles). They wrote for a public audience, with minimal referencing, and in the first person to the greatest extent possible (all of which can be

quite difficult for academics). They wrote in-the-moment, without the benefit of hindsight. Many of the contributors based in the academy wrote despite their scholarly inclination ‘take the long view’, and to ‘stay above the fray’. They wrote on a short timeline, amidst all their other urgent and often much more important obligations. They wrote at the risk that their thoughts would seem dated by the time they were in print. They wrote with meaning and purpose.

There are countless angles from which to criticize this rather unorthodox collection, and any of these articles for that matter. At some point, there will likely be a time for more dispassionate, rigorous, scholarly critique and criticism. To read these articles from a more conventional academic approach, however, is to miss the point of this effort entirely. In this moment, I simply hope that you will suspend, for a time at least, some degree of judgment and merely consider each of these articles.

Together, these essays form an ensemble of voices from different vantage points and different parts of the world. In these pages are conversations about agriculture and human values as seen through the lens of COVID-19. I hope these essays encourage us to reflect. I hope they help us see again, perhaps more clearly than before. As I write, many of the world’s leaders are urgently trying to devise ways to ‘get back to normal’, as quickly as possible. I hope that these essays will help us consider how we might *not* get back to normal; how we might identify new paths to a new normal grounded in more sustainable, resilient, regenerative, just forms of agriculture than we had entering this crisis.

So, here we are. Here is *Agriculture and Human Values* in the midst of COVID-19. Here we are nearly 100 years from the Spanish Flu pandemic, 90 years from the onset of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, 50 years after the first Earth Day, and 50 years since Norman Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his Green Revolution. What have we learned about agriculture and human values? What is COVID-19 revealing about agriculture, and our human values? Where to now? How? I hope these essays will at least foment conversations about these vital questions. I am convinced that there are answers in these essays, and more directly, in the process of engaging with these ideas in real, material ways.

**COVID-19, Agriculture, and Human Values:
A Special Collection of Essays in *Agriculture and Human Values***

Matthew R. Sanderson, Randall C. Hill Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, Kansas State University

“Here we are: Agriculture and human values in COVID-19”

Alison Blay-Palmer, UNESCO Chair in Food, Biodiversity and Sustainability Studies, Director, Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Wilfrid Laurier University

Rachel Carey, Lecturer in Food Systems, School of Agriculture and Food, University of Melbourne

Elodie Valette, La recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), University of Montpellier

Matthew R. Sanderson, Randall C. Hill Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, Kansas State University

“Post COVID-19 and food pathways to sustainable transformation”

Julian Agyeman, Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University
Alexandra Duprey, Master’s student, Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University,

“Are you really a Sanctuary City?”

Alison Hope Alkon, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, University of the Pacific, Sarah Bowen, North Carolina State University, Yuki Kato, Georgetown University, Kara Alexis Young, The Ohio State University

“Unequally Vulnerable: A Food Justice Approach to Racial Disparities in COVID-19 Cases”

Miguel Altieri, Professor Emeritus of Agroecology, University of California, Berkeley and Centro Latinoamericano de Investigaciones Agroecologicas (CELIA)
Clara I. Nicholls, Lecturer, University of California, Berkeley and Centro Latinoamericano de Investigaciones Agroecologicas (CELIA)

“Agroecology and the emergence of a post COVID-19 agriculture”

Molly D. Anderson, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Food Studies, Middlebury College

“Pandemic shows deep vulnerabilities”

David Barling, Director, Centre for Agriculture, Food and Environmental Management, University of Hertfordshire

“Challenges to the food supply in the UK: Collaboration, value and the labour force”

Jane Battersby-Lennard, Associate Professor, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa

“South Africa’s lockdown regulations and the reinforcement of anti-informality bias”

Many Bayha, Director, Dene Language, Culture, and Spirituality Department, Délıne Got’ine Government, Deline, NWT

Andrew Spring, Research Associate and Associate Director, Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Wilfrid Laurier University

“Response to COVID in Délıne, NT: Reconnecting with our community, our culture and our past after the pandemic”

Michael M. Bell, Chair and Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, Department of Community and Environmental Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“The Arkansas Traveler’s Paradox: COVID-19 and the Rural Sociology of Stupidity”

Tim Benton, Research Director, Emerging Risks, and Director, Energy, Environment and Resources Programme, Royal Institute of International Affairs / Chatham House, UK
“COVID-19 and disruptions to food systems”

Laura S.P. Bloomfield, Stanford University School of Medicine, Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources, Stanford University
“Global mapping of landscape fragmentation, human-animal interactions, and livelihood behaviors to prevent the next pandemic”

Steve Brescia, Executive Director, Groundswell International
“From Crisis to Healthy Farming and Food Systems”

Fritjof Capra, Physicist, Educator, Activist, Berkeley, California
“The COVID-19 Pandemic: A Systemic Analysis”

Patrick Caron, Chair, United Nations High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition Steering Committee, World Food Security Committee, CIRAD, University of Montpellier
“From crisis to utopia: crafting new public - private articulation at territorial level to design sustainable food systems”

M. Jahi Chappell, Director, Food First, Institute for Food & Development Policy, Oakland, California, and Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University
“COVID, Food, and the Parable of the Shmoo”

Ika Darnhofer, Associate Professor, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences - Vienna
“Farm resilience in the face of the unexpected: Lessons from the corona pandemic”

Maggie Dickinson, Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, City University of New York-Guttman Community College
“Food Frights: COVID and the Specter of Hunger”

Fatuma Emmad, Executive Director, Frontline Farmers and Chair, Mile High Farmers
Devon G. Peña, Founder and President, The Acequia Institute, Professor, University of Washington
“Feeding Our Autonomy: Resilience in the Face of the CoVid-19 and Future Pandemics”

Madeleine Fairbairn, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz
Julie Guthman, Professor of Social Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz
“Agri-food tech discovers silver linings in the pandemic”

Jennifer Franco, Research Associate, Agrarian and Environmental Justice, The Transnational Institute, Amsterdam

“‘If the virus doesn’t kill me...’: Socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on rural working people in the Global South”

Harriet Friedmann, Professor Emerita of Sociology, University of Toronto

“Pandemic Reflections from Toronto”

Leah Garces, President, Mercy for Animals

“COVID-19 Exposes Animal Agriculture’s Vulnerability”

Barbara Gemmill Herren, Prescott College

“Closing the Circle: An Agroecological Response to Covid-19”

Undine Giseke, Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture, Institute for Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, Technical University Berlin

“COVID-19: Does Social Distancing Include Species Distancing?”

Leland Glenna, Professor of Rural Sociology and Science, Technology, and Society, The Pennsylvania State University

“The Value of Public Agricultural and Food Knowledge During Pandemics”

Stephen R. Gliessman, Professor Emeritus of Agroecology, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA

“Transforming food and farming systems with agroecology”

Line Gordon, Director, Stockholm Resilience Centre

“The COVID-19 pandemic stresses the need to build resilient production ecosystems”

Andrew Gunther, Executive Director, A Greener World

“COVID-19: Fight or Flight”

Mary Hendrickson, Associate Professor of Rural Sociology, University of Missouri

“COVID-19 Lays Bare the Brittleness of a Concentrated and Consolidated Food System”

Lewis Holloway, Reader in Human Geography, University of Hull

“COVID-19 and a shifted perspective on infectious farm animal disease research”

Elizabeth Hoover, Associate Professor of American Studies, Brown University

“Native Food Systems Impacted by COVID”

Rob Hopkins, Founder, Transition Town Totne and Transition Network

“Maybe there is an alternative after all?”

Daniel Imhoff, Farmer and Author, California, USA

“Lessons of Dislocation”

Wes Jackson, President Emeritus, The Land Institute

Robert Jensen, Professor Emeritus of Journalism, University of Texas-Austin

“What Can People Think of Doing When They Have Little Money?”

Saru Jayaraman, Co-founder and President, One Fair Wage, Director, Food Labor Research Center, University of California, Berkeley

“Building Power through Crisis”

Teresa Mares, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Transdisciplinary Research Initiative in Food Systems, University of Vermont

“What a Stay-at-Home Order Means for Migrant Dairy Workers”

Charles Massy, Farmer, Author, Visiting Fellow, Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University

“COVID-19, The Anthropocene, and Transformative Change”

Michael M. Bell, Chair and Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, Department of Community and Environmental Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“The Arkansas Traveler’s Paradox:
COVID-19 and the Rural Sociology of Stupidity”

Bill McKibben, Executive Director, 350.org and Schumann Distinguished Scholar, Middlebury College

“A dose of reality”

Carolin Mees, Lecturer, Technical University Berlin

“More shared urban open spaces: Resiliency on demand”

Curt Meine, Senior Fellow, The Aldo Leopold Center, Baraboo, Wisconsin

“Peering Through the Portal”

Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, D.C.

“Collective action and “social distancing” in COVID-19 responses”

David Montgomery, Professor of Earth and Space Sciences, University of Washington

Anne Biklé, Dig2Grow.com, Seattle, Washington

“Lessons from a Pandemic on Practices versus Products in Agriculture”

Alfonso Morales, Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, Food Systems, Marketplaces, and Public Policy, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Differentiate or Die: Reconstructing Marketplace Economies”

Ana Moragues-Faus, Senior Research Fellow, Universitat de Barcelona
“Distributive Food Systems to Build Just and Liveable Futures”

Jeff Moyer, Chief Executive Officer, Rodale Institute
“A Time of Reflection – A Time for Change”

Elizabeth Mpofo, Farmer, General Coordinator, Via Campesina, Zimbabwe
“The COVID-19 crisis: Time to reflect on
how we live and interact with nature”

Boidurjo Rick Mukhopadhyay, Independent Scholar
“COVID-19 and the Indian Farm Sector:
Ensuring Everyone’s Seat at the Table”

Edward Mukiibi, Executive Director, Slow Food Uganda, Vice President, Slow Food International
“COVID-19 and the state of food security in Africa”

Gary Paul Nabham, W.K. Kellogg Endowed Chair in Food and Water Security for the
Borderlands, University of Arizona
“U.S. Food Supply Chains Will Never Look nor Taste the Same Again”

Andreas Neef, Professor of Development Studies, University of Auckland
“Legal and Social Protection for
Migrant Farm Workers: Lessons from COVID-19”

Danielle Nierenberg, President and Founder, Food Tank
“Recommendations for Resetting the Food System”

Denise O’Brien, Farmer, Director of Women for Food and Agriculture Network
“A Small Iowa Farmer's Perspective on COVID-19”

Cynthia Ong, Executive Director, LEAP [Land Empowerment Animals People], Malaysia
“Rice Revitalization and Food Sovereignty in Sabah”

Leah Penniman, Co-Director and Farm Manager, Soul Fire Farm, New York
“To Free Ourselves We Must Feed Ourselves”

Potira Preiss, Regional Development Program, University of Santa Cruz do Sul, Brazil
“Challenges and innovations facing the COVID-19 pandemic:
Lessons from Brazilian short food supply systems”

Jules Pretty, Professor of Environment and Society, University of Essex
“New Opportunities for the Redesign of Agricultural and Food Systems”

Linda S. Prokopy, Professor of Natural Resource Social Science, Director, Indiana Water Resources Research Center, Purdue University, Benjamin Gramig, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, Alisha Bower, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Sarah Church, Montana State University Brenna Ellison, Purdue University, Kristin Floress, Unaffiliated, Phil Gassman, Iowa State University, Ken Genskow, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Douglas Gucker, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, Stephen Hallett, Purdue University, Jason Hill, University of Minnesota, Natalie Hunt, University of Minnesota, Kris Johnson, The Nature Conservancy Ian Kaplan, Purdue University, Paul Kelleher, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Hans Kok, Conservation Technology Information Center, Michael Komp, Conservation Technology Information Center, Peter Lammers, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Sarah LaRose, Purdue University, Matthew Liebman, Iowa State University, Andrew Margenot, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, David Mulla, University of Minnesota, Michael O'Donnell, Purdue University, Alex Peimer, Northeastern Illinois University, Elizabeth Reaves, Sustainable Food Lab, Kara Salazar, Purdue University, Chelsea Schelly, Michigan Technological University, Keith Schilling, University of Iowa, Silvia Secchi, University of Iowa, Aslihan Spaulding, Illinois State University, David Swenson, Iowa State University, Aaron Thompson, Purdue University, Jessica Ulrich-Schad, Utah State University

“The Urgency of Transforming the
Midwestern U.S. Landscape into More than Corn”

Maryam Rahmanian, Centre for Sustainable Development, Iran
Nahid Naghizadeh, Centre for Sustainable Development, Iran

“COVID-19 places Iran’s nomadic pastoralists at a crossroads”

Samina Raja, Professor and Director, Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab,
University at Buffalo, New York

“Planning and Pandemics: COVID 19 Reveals Why
Urban Planners Should Have listened to Food Advocates all Along”

Charles W. Rice, Chair, Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, Robin Schoen, Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, Aristos Aristidou, Biotechnology Research and Development, Cargill, Inc., Shane C. Burgess, University of Arizona, Susan Capalbo, Oregon State University, Gail Czarnecki-Maulden, Nestle Research Center, Nestle Purina PetCare, Bernadette Dunham, George Washington University, Gibesa Ejeta, Purdue University, Jay S. Famigilietti, University of Saskatchewan, Fred Gould, North Carolina State University, John Hamer, Data Collective, Douglas B. Jackson-Smith, The Ohio State University, James W. Jones, University of Florida, Ermias Kebreab, University of California-Davis, Stephen S. Kelley, North Carolina State University, Jan E. Leach, Colorado State University, Robin Lougee, IBM Research, Jill J. McCluskey, Washington State University, Karen I. Plaut, Purdue University, Ricardo J. Salvador, Union of Concerned Scientists, and V. Alaric Sample, George Mason University

“Keeping up with the fast-moving world of crisis management”

Ruth Richardson, Executive Director, Global Alliance for the Future of Food

“Bending the Arc of COVID-19 through

a Principled Food Systems Approach”

Antonio Roman-Alcala, International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague

“A view from California: Conditions for agrarian social movement responses
in a time of acute crisis”

Vandana Shiva, Scholar, Author, Activist, Delhi, India

“One Planet, One Health - Connected through Biodiversity:
From the forests, to our farms, to our gut microbiome”

Paul B. Thompson, W.K. Kellogg Chair in Agricultural, Food and Community Ethics,
Michigan State University

“One Bioethics for COVID-19?”

Juan Manuel Villulla, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

“COVID-19 in Argentine agriculture:
Global threats, local contradictions and possible responses”

Steven Wolf, Associate Professor, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University and
President, RC40, ISA Research Committee on Sociology of Agriculture and Food

“COVID-19 and Medical Professionals: Lessons for Agriculture”

Donald Worster, Hall Distinguished Professor Emeritus of American History, University of
Kansas

“The Coronavirus: Understanding Its Ecological History”