

JOHN C. CANFIELD

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sociology Ph.D. program

Academic Advisors: Professor Michael Bell and Professor Katherine Curtis

Preliminary Exams: Sociology of Economic Change and Development (Aug 2021); Agrofood Systems (Jan 2023)

Graduate Minor: Culture, History, and the Environment

Dissertation Title: Crossing the Boundaries of Capitalism and Community: Multistakeholder Networks and Collaborative Conservation in Montana's Northern Great Plains

Madison, WI

Expected Graduation: May 2026

Auburn University

M.S., Rural Sociology

Thesis title: The Corporation and the DNA of Farmland Financialization

Academic Advisor: Professor Loka Ashwood

Auburn, AL

May 2019

Sewanee: The University of the South

B.A., *cum laude*

Majors: Philosophy, *Honors* and *Distinction*. Environmental Studies, *Honors* and *Distinction*.

Dean's List; Member, Order of the Gown (academic honor society)

Sewanee, TN

May 2016

Aug 2014 – May 2016

St. John's College, University of Oxford

Summer 2014

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Project Assistant | University of Wisconsin-Madison, Professor Nan Enstad

Jan 2025 – Present

Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sep 2021 – Dec 2024

Graduate Project Assistant | University of Wisconsin-Madison, Professor Katherine Curtis

Jun 2022 – Aug 2022

Graduate Research Assistant | University of Wisconsin-Madison, Professor Katherine Curtis

Sep 2019 – Sep 2021

Graduate Research Assistant | Auburn University, Professor Loka Ashwood

Aug 2017 – Aug 2019

Systems and Programs Coordinator | AmeriCorps VISTA, Sewanee, TN

Aug 2016 – Aug 2017

Intern | Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, Whitesburg, KY

May 2015 – Aug 2016

Intern | Natural Resources Defense Council, Chicago, IL

May 2014 – Jun 2014

PUBLICATIONS

- **Canfield, John.** 2024. "Saving the Wild or Saving the Cowboy? Cultural Conflict Between the Old and Nouveau West." *Rural Sociology* 89(4): 954-974. doi: 10.1111/ruso.12572. (Rural Sociological Society's Natural Resources Research and Interest Group's Graduate Student Paper Award, Recipient)
- Ashwood, Loka, Andrew Pilny, **John Canfield**, Mariyam Jamila, and Ryan Thomson. 2022. "The Big Finance of Big Ag: A Market Network Approach to Power in Agriculture." *Agriculture and Human Values*. 39:1421–1434 doi: 10.1007/s10460-022-10348.
- Ashwood, Loka, **John Canfield** (co-first author), Madeleine Fairbairn, and Kathryn De Master. 2022. "What Owns the Land: The Corporate Organization of Farmland Investment." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 49(2): 233-262. doi: [10.1080/03066150.2020.1786813](https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2020.1786813).

- **Canfield, John C.**, Karl Galloway, and Loka Ashwood. 2020. "Rural Estrangement: Roadblocks and Roundabouts to Justice." In *The Cambridge Handbook of Environmental Sociology*, edited by K. Legun, J. Keller, M. Bell, & M. Carolan, Cambridge University Press. doi: 10.1017/9781108554510.028

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- **Canfield, John.** "The Moral Landscape of Montana's Northern Great Plains: Land Use, Stewardship, and Conceptions of the Good." (Rural Sociological Society's Sociology of Agriculture and Food Research and Interest Group's Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention)
- **Canfield, John.** "Networks of People, Plants, and Animals: Using Participatory Network Mapping to Explore Community-Based Conservation."
- **Canfield, John.** "Green Grabbing: The Logical Consequence of Neoliberal Approaches to Development and Conservation."

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

- **John Canfield.** "Networks of People, Plants, and Animals: Using Participatory Network Mapping to Explore Community-Based Conservation." Paper presented at the 11th World Conference on Ecological Restoration. Society for Ecological Restoration Biennial Meeting. Denver, CO. Oct 2025
- **John Canfield.** "Conserving the Grasslands: Conflict and Collaboration in Montana's Northern Great Plains." The Garden Club of America, Garden Guild of Winnetka, Winnetka, IL. Sep 2025
- **John Canfield.** "This Land Is Our Land: Land Use, Stewardship, and the Good in Montana's Northern Great Plains." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. Aug 2025
- **John Canfield.** "Networks of People, Plants, and Animals: Using Participatory Network Mapping to Explore Community-Based Conservation." Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, Utah. Jul 2025
- **John Canfield.** "Exploring Community-Based Ecological Restoration through Participatory Network Mapping." America's Grasslands Conference. Kearney, NE. Jun 2025
- **John Canfield.** "Classwork: Rural Gentrification and Changing Class Structures in Montana's Northern Great Plains." Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Madison, WI. Jul 2024
- **John Canfield.** "The Jingle, the Rumble, and the Roar: Jam Sessions, Placemaking, and the Joys of Transcendence." Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Madison, WI. Jul 2024
- **John Canfield, Danielle Schmidt, and Katherine J. Curtis.** "Public Land Anxieties in the Western United States." Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Madison, WI. Jul 2024
- **John Canfield.** "Resilient Restoration Through Multistakeholder Networks." Matador Ranch Science and Land Management Symposium. Dodson, MT. Jun 2024
- **John Canfield.** "The Jingle, the Rumble, and the Roar: Music, Jam Sessions, and the Construction of Place." Community and Environmental Sociology Working Group. Madison, WI. Sep 2023
- **John Canfield.** "Saving the Wild or Saving the Cowboy? Cultural Conflict between the Old and Nouveau West." Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Burlington, VT. Aug 2023
- **John Canfield.** "Space, Capital, and the State: Nineteenth-Century Development and Wisconsin's Milwaukee Road." Center for Culture, History, and the Environment Colloquium. Madison, WI. Apr 2023
- **John Canfield, Katherine J. Curtis, and Danielle Schmidt.** "Saving the Wild or Saving the Cowboy? Environmental Politics and Property in Montana's Northern Great Plains." Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Westminster, CO. Aug 2022

- Curtis, Katherine J., **John Canfield**, and Danielle Schmidt. “‘Save the Cowboy’: Large-Scale Conservation and Early-Stage Rural Gentrification in a Western Agricultural Community.” Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Online. Jul 2021
- **John Canfield**, Loka Ashwood, Ryan Thomson, and Mariyam Jamila. “Proprietors, Creditors, and the Powering of Pork.” American Association of Geographers Annual Conference. Online. Apr 2021
- Ashwood, Loka, Ryan Thomson, **John Canfield**, and Mariyam Jamila. “Corporate Tied and Credit Bound: The Power of Pork Production.” Yale Big Ag and Anti-Trust Conference. Online. Jan 2021
- Canfield, John C. Katherine Curtis. “Neoliberal Conservation & Economic Viability in the Changing Agricultural Landscape.” Rural Sociological Society Meeting. Online. Oct 2020
- Canfield, John C., Loka Ashwood, Kathryn De Master, Madeleine Fairbairn, and Anand Kumar. “Location, Obfuscation, and Financialization: A New Methodology to Explore Farmland Ownership.” Rural Sociology Society Annual Meeting. Richmond, VA. Aug 2019
- Canfield, John C., Loka Ashwood, Kathryn De Master, and Madeleine Fairbairn. “Not Who, But What, Owns the Land: Credit and Corporations as the Conduits of Financialization.” Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Association Annual Conference, Anchorage, AK. Jun 2019
- Canfield, John C. Panelist. “Defending Rural Autonomies in an Era of Big Data and Financialization.” American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. Apr 2019
- Canfield, John C., Loka Ashwood, Kathryn De Master, Madeleine Fairbairn, and Anand Kumar. “Piercing the Corporate Veil: Exploring Farmland Financialization in McDonough and Fulton Counties, Illinois.” American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, Washington D.C. Apr 2019
- Canfield, John C., Loka Ashwood, Kathryn De Master, Madeleine Fairbairn, and Anand Kumar. “The (Not) So Great Transformation: Corporate Land Grabs and the Agrarian Identity.” Southern Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Birmingham, AL. Feb 2019
- Canfield, John C., Loka Ashwood, Kathryn De Master, Madeleine Fairbairn, and Anand Kumar. “Farmland Financialization in McDonough and Fulton Counties, Illinois.” Rural Sociology Society Annual Meeting, Portland, OR. Jul 2018
- Canfield, John C., Kathryn De Master, Loka Ashwood, Madeleine Fairbairn, and Anand Kumar. “Buying the Farm: Farmland Financialization in McDonough County, Illinois.” American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. Apr 2018

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention, Rural Sociological Society, Sociology of Agriculture and Food Research and Interest Group	Aug 2025
Graduate Student Paper Award, Rural Sociological Society, Natural Resources Research and Interest Group	Aug 2023
Outstanding Master’s Thesis Award, Auburn University	Apr 2020
State Research Assistantship, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison	Sep 2019 – 2020
Departmental Nominee, Outstanding Master’s Student, Auburn University	Apr 2019

GRANTS RECEIVED

Recipient, The Garden Club of America’s Fellowship in Ecological Restoration (\$8,000) The Garden Club of America	Summer 2024
Recipient, Center for Culture, History, and the Environment’s Graduate Student Grant (\$2,700) Center for Culture, History, and the Environment, University of Wisconsin-Madison	Summer 2024

Recipient, Crowe Scholarship for Dissertation Research Award (\$5,000)	Summer 2023
Department of Community and Environmental Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison	
Recipient, Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems Mini-Grant (\$3,000)	Summer 2023
Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, University of Wisconsin-Madison	
Recipient, Center for Culture, History, and the Environment's Graduate Student Grant (\$2,500)	Summer 2023
Center for Culture, History, and the Environment, University of Wisconsin-Madison	
Recipient Crowe Scholarship for Pre-Dissertation Research Award (\$2,500)	Summer 2022
Department of Community and Environmental Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison	
Fellowship, Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology, Auburn University	Aug 2018 – May 2019
Rural Sociological Society Travel Grant	Aug 2018, Aug 2019
AmeriCorps Segal Education Award	Aug 2017
Leroy Environmental Service Award, Sewanee: The University of the South <i>university-wide award for excellent work in environmental service</i>	May 2016
<i>Ecce Quam Bonum</i> Award, Sewanee: The University of the South merit scholarship	Aug 2012 – May 2016
Bonner Leader, The Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation <i>four-year service and leadership-based scholarship for diverse students working for positive social change</i>	Aug 2012 – May 2016
Honors, <i>Philosophy</i> , Sewanee: The University of the South	May 2016
Honors, <i>Environmental Studies</i> , Sewanee: The University of the South	May 2016
Distinction, Philosophy Comprehensive Exam, The University of the South	May 2016
Distinction, Environmental Studies Comprehensive Exam, The University of the South	May 2016
National Eagle Scout Association, Adams Service Project Award <i>recognizing outstanding service project nationally</i>	Apr 2011

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- **Canfield, John.** Forthcoming. "Exploring Community-Based Ecological Restoration through Participatory Network Mapping." 2025. *America's Grassland Conference Proceedings*.
- Curtis, Katherine, Danielle Schmidt, and **John Canfield.** 2024. "Views on the Land" *Phillips County News* (<https://www.phillipscountynews.com/story/2024/05/22/opinion/views-on-the-land/15471.html>)
- Curtis, Katherine, **John Canfield**, and Danielle Schmidt. 2021. "A Report on Population and Production in Phillips County, Montana." *Applied Population Lab*. (<https://apl.wisc.edu/shared/conservation-agriculture-rural/phillips-county>).

SERVICE

Reviewer, <i>Agriculture and Human Values</i> and <i>Rural Sociology</i>	Jan 2018 – Present
Co-Leader, Spatial Thinking Working Group, University of Wisconsin-Madison	Jan 2023 – May 2023
Student Representative, Center for Culture, History, and the Environment's Place-Based Planning Committee Workshop, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison	May 2023
Student Representative, Natural Resources Research and Interest Group, Rural Sociological Society	Aug 2021 – 2022
Cohort Representative, UW-Madison Sociology Graduate Student Association	Sep 2019 – Nov 2021
Senator, Auburn University Graduate Student Union	Aug 2018 – May 2019

AFFILIATIONS

Member, Rural Sociological Society	Jan 2018 – Present
Member, American Sociological Association	Jun 2025 – Present
Member, Society for Ecological Restoration	Jun 2025 – Present
Graduate Student Associate, Center for Culture, History, and the Environment	Sep 2020 – Present
Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison	
Member, Rural Resilience Research Group, University of Wisconsin-Madison	Sep 2020 – Present
Member, Soil Health and Agroecological Living Lab, University of Wisconsin-Madison	Sep 2024 – Present
Member, American Association of Geographers	Jan 2018 – Dec 2022
Graduate Affiliate, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison	Sep 2021 – May 2022