

**LIBBY O. CHRISTENSEN**

Department of Human Ecology  
University of California, Davis

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**AREAS OF ACADEMIC INTEREST**

Food systems, supply chains, integrated livestock management, sustainable development, land use planning, regional planning, rural/urban interface, economic development, policy, community design, and livable communities

**EDUCATION**

**PhD. in Geography.** University of California, Davis, Expected May 2016

Dissertation: The changing seasons of produce distribution: An investigation into the past, present, and future of the produce supply chain in California.

Advisor: Ryan E. Galt

**M.Sc. in Community Development.** University of California, Davis, March 2011

Thesis: The Sacramento region's three local food distribution hubs: A case study of factors affecting success.

Advisor: Ryan E. Galt

**B.A. in Environmental Studies and Economics.** University of California, Santa Cruz, December 2007

Capstone: Creation of a sales management database for an organic produce distributor.

Advisor: Jeffery Bury

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Associate Instructor. 2014. Rural Changes in an Industrial World, University of California, Davis

Designed course, lectured, developed course assessments, managed three teaching assistants, held weekly office hours.

Enrichment Instructor. 2014. Innovation and 3-D Printing, University of California, Davis

Developed curriculum, lectured.

Teaching Assistant. 2009-2011. Various courses, University of California, Davis

Organized weekly section, lectured, graded, assisted with development of curriculum.

Courses: Career Discovery Group

Transit Equity

Food Systems

Technology and Society

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Graduate Research Assistant** (2015 – present)

University of California, Davis, Agriculture and Resource Economics Department

Supervisor: Shermain Hardesty

Project: California local food system economic multiplier study

**Graduate Research Assistant** (2014 – 2015)

University of California, Davis, Veterinary Medicine

Supervisor: Maurice Pitesky

Project: Pastured poultry farm

**Graduate Research Assistant** (2014 – 2015)

University of California, Davis, Human Ecology Department

Supervisor: Ryan E. Galt

Project: Expanding Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) sales and access in California

**Graduate Research Assistant (2010 – 2012)**

University of California, Davis, Human Ecology Department

Supervisor: Ryan E. Galt

Project: Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in and around California's Central Valley

**REFEREED PUBLICATIONS**

Galt, Ryan E., Katherine Bradley, **Libby O. Christensen**, Cindy Fake, Katherine Munden-Dixon, Natasha Simpson, Rachel Surls, and Julia Van Soelen Kim. Comparing lower-income and higher-income member households of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in California: What difference does income make? Conditionally accepted to *Agricultural and Human Values*.

**Christensen, Libby O.**, Ryan E. Galt, and Alissa Kendall. A life-cycle assessment (LCA) of greenhouse gas emissions of Community Supported Agriculture in California's Central Valley. Conditionally accepted to *Journal of Industrial Ecology*.

**Christensen, Libby O.** and Rita O'Sullivan. 2015. Using social network analysis to measure changes in regional food systems collaboration: A methodological framework. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 5(3), 113–129, doi: 10.5304/jafscd.2015.053.013

Galt, Ryan E., Katie Bradley, **Libby O. Christensen**, Julia Van Soelen Kim, and Ramiro Lobo. 2015. Eroding the community in community supported agriculture (CSA): competition's effects in alternative food networks in California. *Sociologia Ruralis*, doi: 10.1111/soru.12102.

Galt, Ryan E., **Libby O'Sullivan**<sup>1</sup>, Jessica Beckett, and Colleen Hiner. 2012. An Overview of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in and around California's Central Valley. *California Agriculture*, 66(1): 8-14.

**WORKS IN PROGRESS**

**Christensen, Libby O.** Buried history: Uncovering the role of Japanese growers in establishing the national vegetable industry. In preparation, submitting to *Journal of Peasant Studies*.

**Christensen, Libby O.** How did we get here?: Transformations in fresh fruit and vegetable supply chain. In preparation, submitting to *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning*.

**Christensen, Libby O.** Deurbanizing the produce supply chain: A geographic investigation of changes in California produce distribution. In preparation, submitting to *Environment and Planning A*.

**SELECTED RESEARCH REPORTS**

**Christensen, Libby O.** and Frederick Smith. 2015. Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association Business Development Study. Concord, CA.

Galt, Ryan E., and **Libby O. Christensen**. 2015. Preliminary Report: Current and Former CSA Members in California. Davis, CA.

Runsten, David, Shawn Harrison, and **Libby O'Sullivan**. 2012. Establishing a Food Hub for the Sacramento Valley. Sacramento, CA.

Galt, Ryan E., Jessica Beckett, Colleen C. Hiner, and **Libby O'Sullivan**. 2011. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in and around California's Central Valley: farm and farmer characteristics, farm-

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<sup>1</sup> Please note last name changed to Christensen from O'Sullivan in 2014.

member relationships, economic viability, information sources, and emerging issues. Davis: University of California.

**O'Sullivan, Libby**, Ryan E. Galt, and Gail Feenstra. 2010. Sacramento County Grow and Buy Local Report: An assessment of market opportunities for Sacramento growers. Davis: Agricultural Sustainability Institute, University of California, Davis.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERINCE**

### **Research Consultant and Founder (2009-present)**

Foodways Consulting

Projects: Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association Small Business Development Project; Community Alliance with Family Farmers San Mateo Food and Agriculture Business Opportunities Study; Center for Environmental Farm Stewardship Program Evaluation; Soil Born Farms Sacramento Regional Food Hub Feasibility Study; Sacramento Area Council of Governments Rural Urban Connections Strategy

### **Planner (2012-2013)**

Sacramento Area Council of Governments  
Supervisor: David Shabazian

### **Program Coordinator (2008-2009)**

Sacramento County Farm Bureau  
Supervisor: Charlotte Mitchell

### **Farm Assistant (2007-2008)**

Cane Creek Farm  
Supervisor: Eliza MacLean

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### *Panels Organized*

Growing Food Connections for Sustainable Communities. 2014. New Partners for Smart Growth. Denver, Colorado, 15 February.

### *Conference Papers and Presentations*

\* = in-person presenter(s) of jointly authored presentations

2016. Buried history: uncovering the role of Japanese growers in establishing the national vegetable industry. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, San Francisco, California, 28 March.

**Christensen, Libby O.\*** & Shermain Hardesty\*. 2016. The impact of local food marketing on the local economy. California Food Policy Council. Sacramento, California, 15 March.

**Christensen, Libby O.\***, Ryan E. Galt, Katharine Bradley, Natasha Simpson, & Kate Munden-Dixon. 2015. Who supports Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in California? Comparisons of current and former CSA members. UC Davis/CAFF CSA workshop. McKellar Farm, Ivanhoe, California, 21 September.

2015. Sacramento Farm to Fork Panel. California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: Northern Area District. Sacramento, California, September 16.

**Christensen, Libby O.\*** and Fredrick Smith. 2015. Sourcing Locally Grown Ingredients for Value Added Products at Farmers' Markets. Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association. Concord, California, September 14.

- Galt, Ryan E., **Libby O. Christensen\***, Katharine Bradley, Natasha Simpson\*, & Kate Munden-Dixon. 2015. Who supports Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in California? Comparisons of current and former CSA members. UC Davis/CAFF CSA workshop. Russell Ranch, Davis, California, 17 September.
- Galt, Ryan E., **Libby O. Christensen**, Katharine Bradley, Natasha Simpson\*, & Kate Munden-Dixon. 2015. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in California: findings from the CSA farmer/operator survey UC Davis/CAFF CSA workshop. Live Earth Farm, Watsonville, California, 18 August.
- Galt, Ryan E., **Libby O. Christensen**, Katie Bradley, Natasha Simpson, & Kate Munden-Dixon. 2015. Who supports Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)? CSA members in California. Annual Meeting of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society/Association for the Study of Food and Society, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 25 June.
2015. Deurbanizing the Produce Supply Chain: A Geographic Investigation of Changes in California Produce Distribution? 2015. American Association of Geographers. 21 April.
- Galt, Ryan E.,\* **Libby O. Christensen**, Katie Bradley, Natasha Simpson, & Kate Munden-Dixon. 2015. Synergies and trade-offs within sustainability: considering well-being in civic agriculture. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, Illinois, 21 April.
2015. CSA Workshop. California Small Farm Conference. March 10.
- Feenstra, Gail\*, Dave Campbell\*, Ildi Carlisle-Cummins\* and **Libby O'Sullivan\***. 2014. Input from the Field: Continuing the Dialogue about Community Food Systems Research. Agriculture, Food and Human Values. 21 June.
- The Political Economy of California Produce Distribution. 2014. Agriculture, Food and Human Values. 19 June.
- Galt, Ryan E.,\* Katie Bradley, and **Libby O'Sullivan**. 2014. Political ecology and alternative food networks: competition in community supported agriculture (CSA). Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Tampa, Florida, 10 April.
- Regional Planning in the Sacramento Region. 2013. Biannual California Childhood Obesity Conference. 18 June.
- Galt, Ryan E.,\* **Libby O'Sullivan**, and Alissa Kendall. 2013. A life-cycle assessment (LCA) of greenhouse gas emissions from a box of produce: Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in the Sacramento Valley. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, California, 9 April.
- Galt, Ryan E., Libby O'Sullivan**, and Alissa Kendall. 2013. A life-cycle assessment (LCA) of greenhouse gas emissions from a box of produce: comparing Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and conventional food systems in the Sacramento Valley. Diversified Farming Systems Roundtable, University of California, Berkeley, 5 April.
- Galt, Ryan E., **Libby O'Sullivan**, and Alissa Kendall. 2013. A comparative life-cycle assessment (LCA) of greenhouse gas emissions from a box of produce: comparing Community Supported Agriculture and conventional food systems (poster). California Climate Action Network (CalCAN) conference, Davis, California, 21 February.
- Consumption to Production Model in the SACOG Region. 2012. Presentation to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. Woodland, California, 28 February.

The Sacramento Region's Three Local Food Distribution Hubs: A Case Study of Factors Affecting Success. 2011. Annual Meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers. San Francisco, California, 1 October.

Galt, Ryan E., **Libby O'Sullivan\***, Jessica Beckett, and Colleen Hiner. 2011. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in and around California's Central Valley (poster). University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) Sustainable Food Systems Strategic Initiative conference, University of California, Davis, 11 October.

Galt, Ryan E., **Libby O'Sullivan\***, Jessica Beckett, and Colleen Hiner Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in California's Central Valley: Membership and Farm Trends, Cooperation-Competition, Conventionalization, and the Great Recession. 2011. Annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Seattle, Washington, 14 May.

Galt, Ryan E., Damian Parr\*, Jessy Beckett\*, Julia Van Soelen Kim\*, and Libby O'Sullivan\*. 2010. Teaching food systems: attempts at a critical social constructivist pedagogy in a land grant university college of agriculture. Annual Meeting of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences. Portland, Oregon, 19 June.

RUCS Update. 2010. Meeting of the Sacramento Region Food System Collaborative. Sacramento, California, 12 January.

**O'Sullivan, Libby\***, Ryan E. Galt, and Gail Feenstra. Sacramento County Grow and Buy Local Report: An assessment of market opportunities for Sacramento growers (poster). 2009. Annual conference of the Community Food Security Coalition, Des Moines, Iowa, 10 October.

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Center for Regional Change Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2015 (\$2,500)

California Department of Agriculture, Specialty Crop Block Grant, Author, Food System Multipliers for Specialty Crops in the Sacramento Region, 2013-2015 (\$387,038)

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Grant, Co-author, "Expanding Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) sales and access in California", 2012-2015 (\$262,702)

Geography Graduate Group Block Grant Award, 2014 and 2012, (\$1,000)

Jastro Shields Research Award. 2012, (\$1,500)

## **LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

### *Service to Profession*

2016 California Small Farm Conference Local Planning Committee, 2015-2016

USDA Local Food Promotion Program Grant Reviewer, 2015

Transportation Resource Board Committee Member on Agricultural Transportation and Distribution, 2012-2014

Steering Committee, California Geographic Society 2012 Conference Planning, 2011-2012

### *University Service*

President, GLOBAL Geography Student Club, 2014-2015

Geography Graduate Group Admissions Selection Committee. 2014

Member, GLOBAL Geography Student Club, 2013-2014

President, GLOBAL Geography Student Club, 2011-2012

Student Representative, Executive Committee, Geography Graduate Group, 2011-2012

Student Representative, Graduate Student Association, UC Davis, 2010-2011

Student Representative, Executive Committee, Community Development Graduate Group, 2009-2010

*Community Service*

Governor Appointment to the Yolo County Fair Board of Directors, 2012- present

Steering Committee, Sacramento Region Food System Collaborative, 2012-2014

LANGUAGE

Spanish: Proficient (speaking, writing, and reading)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Planning Association

American Association of Geographers

Association of Pacific Coast Geographers