

12/2020

## *Marion W. Dixon*

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences · Point Park University

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### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., 2013, Development Sociology, Cornell University.

M.S., 2007, Development Sociology, Cornell University.

B.A., 2000, Political Science, summa cum laude, University of Michigan.

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

2018 – Present Assistant Professor, Sociology, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
Point Park University

2014 - 2018 Professorial Lecturer, School of International Service, American University  
Member, International Development (Masters) Program

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Book Under Contract**

*The Frontiers of Corporate Food in Egypt*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Expected delivery  
August 2022. Under review and under contract.

#### **Articles (Refereed)**

2020. 'Agrarian Question Revisited: Smallholders and Corporate Food in Egypt', special issue  
Food Security and the Contested Visions of Agrarian Change in Africa in *Canadian  
Journal of Development Studies* 41(2): 279-295. Free online access:  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/4EY5KIVXTIZTC6G8KXQI/full?target=10.1080/02255189.2019.1697652>.

2018. 'Chemical fertilizer in transformations in world agriculture and the state system, 1870 to  
the interwar period'. *Journal of Agrarian Change* 18(4): 768-786.

2017. 'Plastics and Agriculture in the Desert Frontier'. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 37(1): 86-102.
2015. 'Biosecurity and the Multiplication of Crises in the Egyptian Agri-food Industry'. *Geoforum* 61: 90-100.
2014. 'The land grab, finance capital, and food regime restructuring: the case of Egypt'. *Review of African Political Economy* 41(140): 232-248.
2011. 'An Arab Spring'. *Review of African Political Economy* 38(128): 309-316.

### **Bibliography (Refereed)**

2018. 'Arab Spring.' In *Oxford Bibliographies in African Studies*, edited by P. Zeleza. New York: Oxford University Press.

### **Book Chapter**

2018. 'Riding on Waves of Crises: Finance, Food, and Political Tumult in Egypt'. In *Financialisation, Food Systems and Rural Transformation*, edited by H. Bjørkhaug, A. Magnan, and G. Lawrence, pp. 135-155. New York: Routledge.

### **Book Review**

2017. Invited Review of *The Contradictions of Neoliberal Agri-Food: Corporations, Resistance, and Disasters in Japan*, by Kae Sekine and Alessandro Bonanno, *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* 46(6): 714-716.

### **Under review**

'Phosphate rock frontiers: Nature, labor, and imperial states, 1870 – WWII', in *Critical Historical Studies* (Second revisions submitted to editors, Dec 2020)

### **Other Publications**

2018. 'Egypt's Indelible Link: Corporate Food, Frontiers, and Popular Revolt'. *ROAPE Critical Agrarian Studies Blog*, 10 July. Available at: <http://roape.net/2018/07/10/egypts-indelible-link-corporate-food-frontiers-and-popular-revolt/>.

2017. 'Al-Ghada' wa al-Azmah fi Misr' (Arabic translation of Food and Crisis in Egypt). *Thimar* no. 184. Available at: <http://www.athimar.org/Article-115?lang=ar>.
2017. 'Food and Crisis in Egypt: corporate food and class inequalities'. *Thimar* no. 184 (research collective on agriculture, environment, and labour in the Arab world). Available at: <http://www.athimar.org/Article-115>.
2014. 'Agri-food industry growth and the land grab in north-east Africa'. *Democracy in Africa*, 17 November. Available at: <http://democracyinafrica.org/agri-food-industry-growth-land-grab-north-east-africa/>.
2014. 'Making land (and money) a commodity: desert development and agribusiness in Egypt', *CIHEAM Watch Letter* 28, International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies. Available at <http://ciheam.org/images/CIHEAM/PDFs/Publications/LV/WL28.pdf>.
2014. 'Interview with Marion Dixon: Debating the Arab Spring,' *Kdebate: Global Debate* (debating group for undergraduate students).
2013. 'South-South land grabbing: what the case of Egypt and southern neighbours reveals'. *Pambazuka News*, 4 December. Available at: <http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/features/89848>.
2010. 'Investing in Inequality: Education Reform in Egypt'. *Middle East Report* 255: 40-47.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

### Panels (Co)-organized

- 2020 'The Family and the Market in the Longue Durée', Political Economy of the World System (PEWS) regular session, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, August. (cancelled)
- 2018 Political Economy of the World System (PEWS) section Roundtable, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, August 11-14.
- 2017 'Commodity Frontiers in Historical Capitalism', Third Annual Conference of the World-Ecology Research Network, Binghamton University, Binghamton, July 21-22.

- 2016 ‘What is new in the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition?’,  
*Development in Question: 6<sup>th</sup>* annual conference of the Development Sociology  
Section of the American Sociological Association, Cornell University, October 6-  
8.
- 2016 ‘The financialization of agri-food: limits, contradictions, and new directions’,  
XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology, Toronto, August 10-14.
- 2016 ‘MENA political tumult: What do capitalism and class have to do with it?’,  
International Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, March 16-19.
- 2013 ‘A Committee of Concerned Scholars’, Canadian Association of African Studies  
Conference, Carleton University, May 2.

### **Papers Presented**

- 2019 ‘Food Crises and Revolt’, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting,  
New York, August 10-13
- 2018 ‘Chemical Fertilizer in the Making of National Agricultures and National  
Industries, 1870 – WWII’, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting,  
Philadelphia, August 11-14.
- 2018 ‘The modern world economy: frontiers, ecology, commodities’, International  
Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, April 4-7.
- 2018 (co-authored with Claire Metelits and (former student) Edmund Doku) ‘We Come  
as Friends: Missionaries, Investors, and the UN in South Sudan’, International  
Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, April 4-7.
- 2017 ‘Land reclamation and expanded commodity production in the *longue durée*’,  
Middle East Studies Association 2017 Annual Meeting, Washington DC,  
November 18-21.
- 2017 ‘Land Reclamation and Expanded Commodity Production in the *Longue Durée*’,  
Third Annual Conference of the World-Ecology Research Network, Binghamton  
University, July 21-22.
- 2017 ‘Agriculture and food in the Middle East and North Africa: a research agenda’,  
International Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, February 25.

- 2016 'The 'New National Consumer' in Egypt as a class project and ecological process', workshop on 'Spatialities of Food – The Urban Case of Cairo', Collaborative Research Centre, University of Leipzig, Germany, October 14-17.
- 2016 'The Global Fertilizer Industry and 'Greening Africa' Initiatives since the 2007-2008 Crises', *Development in Question*: 6<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Sociology of Development Section of the American Sociological Association, Cornell University, October 6-8.
- 2016 'A methodology for agriculture and food studies in the MENA', *The production of knowledge for research: understanding rural well-being in the Arab world* conference, Thimar: Research collective on agriculture, environment & labor in the Arab World, American University of Beirut, September 16-18.
- 2016 'Regional financialization and consolidation of the Egyptian agri-food industry', XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology, Toronto, August 10-14.
- 2016 'Finance and its Discontents: Consolidation of the Egyptian Formal Economy', International Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, March 16-19.
- 2015 'Frontiers and New Agricultural Countries', American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, August 22-25.
- 2015 'Phosphate, Fertilizers, and French North Africa: 1830s through the interwar period', *Global Commodity Flows* Conference and Workshop, Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas, Austin, April 16-18.
- 2014 'The Geopolitics of Peak Phosphorus – and Food Secure Futures', The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the International Studies Association Northeast, Baltimore, Maryland, November 7-9.
- 2014 'Taming the untamed: the Avian flu and other monsters of industrial agriculture in Egypt', Joint Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) and the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society (AFHVS), Burlington, VT, June 18-21.
- 2013 'Egyptian dairy: the reconstitution of peasantries and the making of corporate food', The 2013 Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New York City, August 9.

- 2012 'The corporate standard and the reproduction of the dominant class in Egypt', The Land Deal Politics Initiative (LDPI) Global Land Grabbing II Conference, Cornell University, October 18.
- 2012 'The (un)making of the desert frontier', The New Enclosures Research Working Group workshop, Cornell University, September 28.
- 2012 'Emerging Regional Powers and the Corporate Food Regime', The African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) Conference, Leeds University, September 7.
- 2012 'The making of nation-states and the (dis)articulation of popular rule', *From Meydan Tahrir to Wisconsin: Rethinking Revolution, Democracy, and Citizenship* Graduate Political Theory Conference, Cornell University, April 27.
- 2011 'A Return to the Ancien Régime? Violence, coercion and complicity in a neoliberal era of agrarian restructuring in Egypt,' The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Mediterranean Research Meeting, European University Institute, Italy, April.

### **Discussant**

- 2019 Panel on Rural Sociology section, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, August 10-13.
- 2018 Panel on 'Structuring the Global from Below', International Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, April 4-7.
- 2017 Panel on 'Accumulation by Appropriation', Third Annual Conference of the World-Ecology Research Network, Binghamton University, Binghamton, July 21-22.
- 2017 Panel on 'Postcolonial Perspectives on the Politics of Development: Historical Views of Postcolonial States', International Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, February 22-25.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2017 School of International Service's Dean's Summer Research Award

- 2016 School of International Service Conference Travel Award, American University
- 2010 Council of World Women Leaders Environmental Policy Fellowship, Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water & Environment, Morocco
- 2010 Richard Bradfield Research Award
- 2009 Polson Institute for Global Development Dissertation Award

## **CAMPUS TALKS**

### **American University**

- 2018 ‘Rethinking the 2011 Uprising in Egypt: The Food-Revolt Nexus’, International Development Program Friday Forum, School of International Service, January.
- 2017 ‘Riding on Waves of Crises: Finance, Food, and Political Tumult’, Ethnographies of Empire Fall Symposium, School of International Service, September.
- 2015 ‘Participation: Promise or Tyranny or..?’, International Development Program Friday Forum, School of International Service, September.
- 2015 ‘The ‘P’ in Greening Africa’, International Development Program Friday Forum, School of International Service, January.

## **TEACHING**

### **Point Park University**

Undergraduate courses as sole instructor:

Nature and Society (Spring 2021)

Agriculture and Food Systems (Spring 2020)

Governments and Politics of the Middle East (Fall 2018)

Introduction to Global Cultural Studies (Spring 2019, 2019-2020) (2020-2021, hybrid)

Sociological Foundations (2018-2019, 2019-2020) (2020-2021, hybrid)

World Cultures (Spring 2019, 2019-2020) (2020-2021, hybrid)

## **American University**

Graduate courses as sole instructor:

International Development (Fall and Spring 2014-2017, Summer 2015)

Micropolitics of Development (Fall 2017, Spring 2015-2017)

Undergraduate courses as sole instructor:

Special topic in Identity, Race, Gender and Culture – ‘The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power in International Development’ (Fall 2015-2017)

International Development (Fall and Spring 2014-2017)

## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

PEWS Council member, Political Economy of the World System section of the American Sociological Association, 2017-2020

Journal manuscript review: *Agriculture and Human Values*; *American Journal of Sociology*; *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*; *Contemporary Sociology*; *Development in Practice*; *Ecologies Technics & Civilizations*; *Environment and Planning A*; *Feminist Economics*; *Food Security*; *Geoforum*; *Globalizations*; *International Journal of Middle East Studies*; *Journal of Agrarian Change*; *Journal of Peasant Studies*; *Review of African Political Economy*; *Review of African Political Economy*; *World Development*

Edited volume review: *Jahrbuch für Wirtschaftsgeschichte / Economic History Yearbook*

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

### **Point Park University**

2020-2021 Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

2019-2020

Spring 2019 Member, Ad-Hoc Department Search Committee, Political Science

### **American University**

2017-2018 Member, Core Committee (Undergraduate Curriculum)

Member, Committee for Habits of Mind Courses

Faculty Advisor, International Development Program

Faculty Advisor, AU Chapter of Nourish International



- 2016-2017 Faculty Advisor, International Development Program  
Faculty Advisor, AU Chapter of Nourish International
- 2015-2016 Faculty Advisor, Alternative Spring Break in Guatemala  
Faculty Advisor, AU Chapter of Nourish International  
Faculty Mentor, Undergraduate Mentorship Program
- 2014-2015 Member, Ad-Hoc Committee on Term Faculty Mentorship  
Faculty Advisor, International Development Program  
Faculty Mentor, Undergraduate Mentorship Program

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- 2018-Present Health Justice advocacy, regional PA
- 2012 ‘Experiencing the Egyptian Revolution: Lessons Learned’, Talk given at the Workers’ Rights Center, Ithaca, NY
- 2008-11 Translation assistant and international advocate, Egyptian Peasant Solidarity Committee, Egypt
- 2006-07 Apprentice, Bison Ridge Farm, Van Etten, NY
- 2002-03 Peace Corps Health Volunteer, Morocco

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Sociological Association  
Association for the Study of Food and Society  
International Studies Association  
Middle East Studies Association  
Rural Sociological Association

### **LANGUAGES**

English (native)  
Arabic (intermediate proficiency, reading comprehension)  
French (intermediate proficiency, reading comprehension)

## REFERENCES

Philip McMichael  
Department of Development Sociology  
Cornell University  
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251C Warren Hall  
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Department of Sociology  
Binghamton University  
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