

# MATT COMI

## CURRICULUM VITAE

University of Kansas, Department of Sociology  
1415 Jayhawk Blvd, Fraser Hall #713  
Lawrence, KS 66045  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2022 **PhD in Sociology**, University of Kansas (Defense—January)  
**Exam Fields:** Environmental Sociology, Cultural Sociology  
**Dissertation:** *Do Farmers Know Better? Exploring on-farm innovation, environmental change, and rural livelihoods in the US hop-growing industry*  
**Committee:** Drs. Paul Stock (Chair), Joane Nagel, Greg Cushman, Bob Antonio, & Ebenezer Obadare
- 2020 **Graduate Certificate in Environmental Studies**, University of Kansas
- 2018 **MA in Sociology**, University of Kansas
- 2014 **B.A. in English and Studio Art**, Whitworth University

## RESEARCH/TEACHING INTERESTS

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Environmental Sociology; Cultural Sociology; Science and Technology Studies; Food Studies; Rural Sociology; Community Development; Theory; Methods (Qualitative and Quantitative)

## GRANTS

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- 2020 **NSF Dissertation Research Improvement Grant** “*Do Farmers Know Better? Exploring on-farm innovation, environmental change, and rural livelihoods in the US hop-growing industry.*”  
Award #1946941 Science, Technology, and Society Program; Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences. (**Funded:** \$15,150)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 2021 **Comi, Matt** and Ruth Stamper. “Chicken Noodle Night: Conviviality, Resilience, and Food at the Vinland Fair.” *Food, Culture, and Society* [Online First]  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15528014.2021.1873033>
- 2020 **Comi, Matt**. “Other Agricultures of Scale: Social and environmental insights from Yakima Valley hop growers.” *Journal of Rural Studies*. 80: 543–52.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2020.10.041>

2020 **Comi, Matt** “The distributed farmer: Rethinking US Midwestern precision agriculture techniques” *Environmental Sociology*. 6(4), 403–15.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2020.1794426>

2019\* **Comi, Matt**. “‘The Right Hybrid for Every Acre’: Assembling the Social Worlds of Corn and Soy Seed-Selling in Conventional Agricultural Techniques.” *Sociologia Ruralis* 59(1): 159–76.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/soru.12227>.

\*ASA *Environmental Sociology Robert Boguslaw Early Career Award Recipient*

### BOOK CHAPTERS (PEER-REVIEWED)

2021 **Comi, Matt** “Seeds, chemicals, and stuff: The agency of things in (un)just agriculture regimes” in *Environmental Justice in the Anthropocene: From (Un)Just Presents to Just Futures*. Ed. Melinda Laituri, Stacia Ryder, Kathryn Powlen. Routledge.

### UNDER REVIEW

---- **Comi, Matt**. “Do Farmers Know Better? Co-production, sustainability, and innovation in the hop-breeding value chain” *Science, Technology, and Human Values*

---- Legun, Katharine; **Matt Comi**, Mark Vicol “New aesthetic regimes: the shifting global political ecology of aroma hops” *Geoforum*. [Resubmitted 07.11]

---- **Comi, Matt**; Sarah Smith, Perry Alexander, Drew Davidson, Walter Goettlich, and Bill Staples. “Digital Homelessness: Exploring the links between social inequality, technological capital, and public Internet access” *Current Sociology*

### IN PREPARATION

---- **Comi, Matt**. “Farmers who tinker: Alternatives to Incrementalism and the growth imperative” in preparation for *Agriculture and Human Values*

--- Szrot, Lukas and **Matt Comi**. “Toward an Ecological Habitus: Constructive Tensions between Humanism(s) and Post-Humanism” in preparation for *Environmental Values*

---- **Comi, Matt**. “Human dimensions of plant agriculture and innovation: Rethinking applied plant science in the Yakima Valley” in preparation for *Nature Plants*

---- Stock, Paul and **Matt Comi**. “Technological Utopianism, Tinkering, and Agricultural Technology: Food Utopias, Environmental Morality and Farmers into the Future” in preparation for *Utopias, Dystopias and Post-Utopia*. Ed. Julia Urabayen and Jorge León

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2020 **Comi, Matt**. “Fostering intersocietal dialogues in agriculture and food.” *International Sociology Association RC40 Newsletter*. 14(1).

2019 **Comi, Matt**. “Participatory research in more than human worlds.” *Book Review. Agriculture and Human Values*. **36**, 907–908. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-019-09969-4>

- 2018 **Comi, Matt**. “Rethinking control: Complexity in agri-environmental governance research”  
*Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* 8(3): 1-3  
doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2018.083.015
- 2017 **Comi, Matt** “Vital Seeds: An assemblage approach to seed production and ownership”  
*Environmental Justice in the Anthropocene Symposium*. Colorado State University. Ft. Collins,  
CO. Conference Paper. hdl.handle.net/10217/183728

## AWARDS + FELLOWSHIPS

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### AMERICAN SOCIOLOGY ASSOCIATION (ASA)

- 2019 Robert Boguslaw Early Career Research Award for Technology and Humanism (Co-Awarded by  
Environmental Sociology and Sociology of Knowledge and Technology Sections)

### ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF FOOD AND SOCIETY (ASFS)

- 2019 Alex McIntosh Prize for Graduate Student Paper

### UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

- 2020 Research Excellence Initiative Grant Writing Incentive Award  
2019 Institute for Policy and Social Research (IPSR) Doctoral Fellow. University of Kansas.  
2018 Graduate Studies Research Support Award  
2017 University Graduate Fellowship. University of Kansas.

### UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS—DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

- 2020 Carrol D. Clark Award  
2019 Christopher Gunn Scholarship for Contributions to Theory and Society.  
2018 Carrol D. Clark Award  
2018 Sociology Departmental Scholarship  
2018 Morris C Pratt Award  
2017 Warriner Fellowship in Sociology.

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2021 **Comi, Matt** “Farmers who Tinker: Alternatives to Incrementalism and the Growth Imperative”  
*Environment and Society Lab*. Washington State University. Pullman, WA.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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### PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2022 Campbell, Hugh; **Matt Comi**; James Hale; Katharine Legun; Paul Stock. Sessions on “Farmer  
and farm ontologies: Rethinking agriculture after the more-than-human turn” *International*

*Rural Sociology Association (IRSA) World Congress*. Cairns, Australia. [Conference delayed until 2022 due to Covid-19 pandemic]

2021 Bronson, Kelly; **Matt Comi**; Jen Liu; Phoebe Sengers. "Networking Rurality" *Society for the Social Study of Science (4S)*. Toronto, ON. Canada.

2020 **Comi, Matt**; Florence Becot; Elly Engle. *Intersocietal Dialogues on Anti-Racism and the Covid-19 Pandemic*. Digital [Held in lieu of in-person 2020 RSS SAFFRIG jointly with ISA-RC40]

#### PAPERS PRESENTED

2021 **Comi, Matt** "Do Farmers Know Better? Co-production, sustainability, and innovation in the hop-breeding value chain" *American Sociological Association (ASA)*. Online.

2021 **Comi, Matt** "Farmers who tinker: Alternatives to Incrementalism and the growth imperative" *Society for the Social Study of Science (4S)*. Toronto, ON. Canada.

2020 **Comi, Matt** "Do Farmers Know Better? On-farm innovation and the hop-growing value chain" *Building Inclusive Value Chains* Wageningen University and Delft University of Technology [Workshop held digitally due to Covid-19 Pandemic].

2020 **Comi, Matt** "Other Agricultures of Scale: Social and environmental insights from Yakima Valley hop growers" *American Sociological Association (ASA)*. San Francisco, CA. [Conference held digitally due to Covid-19 pandemic]

2020 **Comi, Matt** "Ontologies of Innovation: On-farm agriculture technologies in Yakima Valley hop yards" *International Rural Sociology Association (IRSA) World Congress*. Cairns, Australia. [Conference delayed until 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic]

2020 **Comi, Matt** "Forty Farmers in the Yakima Valley: Assembling contemporary US hop growers" *International Rural Sociology Association (IRSA) World Congress*. Cairns, Australia. [Conference delayed until 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic]

2019 **Comi, Matt** "The distributed farmer: tracing US Midwestern precision agriculture techniques in the Anthropocene" *American Sociological Association (ASA)*. New York, NY.

2019 **Comi, Matt**; "'Pure Yeast Culture:' Assembling a Social History of Standard Lager" *Midwestern Sociological Society (MSS)*. Chicago, IL.

2019 **Comi, Matt**; Walter Goettlich, Sarah Smith, Bill Staples, and Marissa Wiley "Digital Homelessness in the Heartland: Examining the Experiences of Public Access Internet Users" *Midwestern Sociological Society (MSS)*. Chicago, IL.

2019 Mahmoud, Kafayat and **Matt Comi** "Exploring Gender and Place: Professional Craft Brewing in the Heartland" *Midwestern Sociological Society (MSS)*. Chicago, IL.

2018 **Comi, Matt** "Thinking With Seeds and Seed Dealers: Exploring the Techno-Political Relations of Big-Ag Seed Sales in Rural Kansas & Missouri" *International Sociological Association (ISA) World Congress XIX*. Toronto, Canada.

2018 **Comi, Matt** "The Distributed Farmer: (Re)Thinking Ownership, Autonomy, and Decision-Making in Precision Agriculture" *Midwestern Sociological Society (MSS)*. Minneapolis, MN.

2017 **Comi, Matt** “Vital Seeds: An assemblage approach to seed production and ownership”  
*Environmental Justice in the Anthropocene Symposium*. Colorado State University. Fort Collins,  
CO.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Research Assistant** 2020-Present, *Digital Homelessness: Safeguarding and Enhancing the Experience of Public Internet Users* (NSF Award Number: 1946180)—Institute for Policy and Social Research, University of Kansas

**Graduate Research Assistant** 2018-19, *Digital Inequalities in the Heartland: Exploring the Information Security Experiences of Marginalized Internet Users* (NSF Award Number: 1742815)—Institute for Policy and Social Research, University of Kansas

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### COURSES TAUGHT

**Introduction to Sociology**—Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Washburn University. Topeka, KS.

**Social Problems**—Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Washburn University. Topeka, KS.

**Understanding Kansas Landscapes** (Interdisciplinary Research Methods)—Environmental Studies Program, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS.

**Self and Society**—Department of Sociology, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS.

### COURSES ASSISTED

**Varieties of the Human Experience** (Introduction to Cultural Anthropology)—Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS.

**Field Ecology**—Environmental Studies Program, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS.

**Environmental Studies Senior Capstone**—Environmental Studies Program, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS.

### OTHER PEDAGOGICAL EXPERIENCE

**Research Mentor** 2018, Haskell Environmental Research Studies (HERS) Institute, Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, KS.

**Graduate Writing Consultant** 2018-20, Writing Center, Academic Accessibility and Achievement Center University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS.

## WORKSHOPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

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IPSR Doctoral Traineeship, 2018-19, University of Kansas

Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) Safe Space Training, 2017, University of Kansas

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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**Organizing Committee Member** Coalition for Food and Agriculture Studies.

**Discussant** "Raising, Producing and Consuming Food and Beer." *Midwestern Sociological Society*. Chicago, IL. 2019.

**Reviewer** *Journal of Rural Studies*  
*Journal of Environmental Management*  
*Environmental Sociology*  
*Agriculture and Human Values*  
*Journal of Rural and Community Development*  
*Culture, Agriculture, Food, and Environment (CAFE)*

## SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

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**President**, Sociology Graduate Student Association. Department of Sociology, University of Kansas. 2020-21.

**Organizer**, "Data-Driven: Agribusiness, Activists and their Shared Politics of the Future" 2019 Annual Blackmar Lecture, University of Kansas.

**GS Representative**, Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Kansas. 2019-20.

**Founding Member**, Food Lab Interdisciplinary Network, University of Kansas. 2017-Present.

**Facilitator**, Graduate Writing Group. Writing Center, Academic Access and Achievement Center, University of Kansas. 2018-20.

## SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

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**Volunteer Coordinator**, Ikigai Noodles (Free ramen-house serving students experiencing food-insecurity). 2018-Present.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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International Sociological Association, Food and Agriculture Research Committee (RC40)

Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)

American Sociological Association, Environmental Sociology Section

Rural Sociology Society, Sociology of Agriculture and Food Research Interest Group (SAFRIG)