

# Lauren C. Suerth

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## RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

Policies are an emergent feature of communities so my objective is to analyze how food systems interact with people, place, and policy and what these reciprocal relationships imply for socio-legal aspects of urban planning.

## EDUCATION

### Ph.D., Urban and Regional Planning

August 2013 – Present

*University of Wisconsin - Madison; Madison, WI*

- Committee members: Dr. Alfonso Morales (chair); Prof. Brian Ohm; Dr. Julie Dawson; Dr. Stephanie Tai; and Dr. Stephen Ventura
- University of Wisconsin Law School Institute for Legal Studies Fellow – September 2016 – May 2017
- Kaufman Lab for the Study of Food Systems and Marketplaces Fellow – 2014 and 2016<sup>1</sup>

### M.S., Natural Resource Law Studies

May 2011

*University of Denver Sturm College of Law; Denver, CO*

- Upper level writing requirement: Planning and policies to encourage urban agriculture in Denver: A path to healthy communities, equal food access, and sustainable urban development
- Upper level writing requirement: Zoning reform for solar access and smart growth
- Colonel Jan M. and Marjorie G. Laitos Scholarship – 2010

### B.S., Community and Regional Planning, minor in Political Science

May 2009

*Iowa State University; Ames, IA*

- Thesis: Local food systems as a subject of community planning
- American Institute of Certified Planners Undergraduate Student of the Year – 2009
- Magna Cum Laude

## PUBLICATIONS

Suerth, L. (2015). *Indicators for Impact Operationalization Process Report* (URPL Working Paper). Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Suerth, L. (2016a). *Indicators for Impact Data Collection Package*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Suerth, L. (2016b). Urban Agriculture: Composting. In A. Morales & J. Dawson (Eds.), *Cities of Farmers: Problems, Possibilities and Processes of Producing Food in Cities*. Iowa City, IA: Iowa Publications.

Suerth, L. (2016c, August 11). Main Street Story of the Week: Farmers Market Impact. *National Trust for Historic Preservation*. Washington, D.C. Retrieved from <http://www.preservationnation.org/main-street/main-street-news/story-of-the-week/2016/farmers-market-impact.html#.V69P92X0Bzc>

Suerth, L., & Morales, A. (2014). Practice composting. *Zoning Practice*, 31(9), 1-7.

### In progress publications

Morales, A., & Suerth, L. (2017). The process and product of social capital in local food initiatives (Journal of Community Development revise and resubmit).

Suerth, L. (n.d.). Metrics and Indicators for Impact operationalization process (journal article in progress).

Suerth, L. (n.d.). Theory within food system planning (journal article in progress).

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<sup>1</sup> Received the award twice for my distinguished contributions to the Lab's research agenda. To date, I am the only person to receive multiple awards from the Kaufman Lab.

## PRESENTATIONS

- Creating Healthy Food Environments (discussant)*. (2014, October). Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning presented at the We the People: Big Ideas, Global Impacts, Philadelphia, PA.
- Suerth, L. (2015, October). *Eddies and tides: Legal consciousness of farmers in the rural urban interface*. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning presented at the Justice and the City: (re)Examining the Past to Create the Future, Houston, TX.
- Suerth, L. (2016a, March). *Metric and Data Collection Package: 2016 Updates*. Presented at the Indicators for Impact Annual Project Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Suerth, L. (2016a, April). *Planning Process: The Interaction of People and Policies in Food Systems Research*. Institute for Legal Studies presented at the Legal Studies Workshop Series, Madison, WI.
- Suerth, L. (2016b, June). *Planning Process: The Interaction of People and Policies in Food Systems Research*. Law and Society Association presented at the AT THE DELTA: Belonging, Place and Visions of Law and Social Change, New Orleans, LA.

## RESEARCH

### Co-Project Investigator

March 2016 – Present

*University of Wisconsin - Madison; Madison, WI*

- Worked with the lead project investigator and academic staff to organize tasks, budgets, and additional research projects.
- Facilitated biweekly research team meetings and two monthly calls with research participants.
- Managed research portal development, market communication, and data analysis, interpretation, and reporting tasks. Personnel include professional web developers, associate research specialist, and hourly graduate and undergraduate students.
- Trained the associate research specialist and hourly students for technical assistance and data management, analysis, and interpretation tasks.

### Research Assistant

August 2014 – Present

*University of Wisconsin - Madison; Madison, WI*

- Conducted community-based research with the University, the Farmers Market Coalition, and farmers market leaders in 11 states for the Indicators for Impact USDA AFRI grant.
- Developed data collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting tools at farmers markets. Reviewed the literature to identify the best practices for data collection at farmers markets and reported my findings through reports, memos, and team calls.
- Operationalized 30 unique metrics for paper and online data collection. Organized the metrics into seven instruments to make the work appropriate for the market environment.
  - Customized paper data collection packages, which included implementation protocols and worksheets, for 17 farmers markets.
  - Managed data entry by markets and data cleaning and analysis by hourly students.
- Communicated with market leaders to provide technical assistance and to build their knowledge about the value of data within their organization and community.

### Research Assistant

August 2010 – May 2011

*University of Denver Sturm College of Law; Denver, CO*

- Researched local regulations on affordable housing, historic preservation, and solar access for the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute *Sustainable Community Development Code Framework* and updated the Code Framework chapters.
- Analyzed the implications of the *Kelo v. City of New London* decision on eminent domain statutes in state and local regulations. Summarized findings in a report.
- Edited *Rathkopf Zoning and Planning Treatise* supplement.

**Research Assistant**

January 2009 – May 2009

*Iowa State University Extension; Ames IA*

- Initiated a study on the relationship between land use regulations and community development to increase understanding on the social and regulatory context of community food systems.
- Conducted personal interviews with planning staff to research the effects of land use regulations in the following cities: Cleveland, OH; Madison, WI; and Sioux City, IA. Performed secondary research on the role of local food systems in the planning practice.

**TEACHING****Professor: Evolution of American Planning**

Summer 2016

*University of Wisconsin - Madison; Madison, WI*

- Selected to teach by a department screening committee.
- Communicated major themes, events, and people within planning theory and history and connected the information to disparate topics for a pragmatic understanding of the profession over time.
- Engaged students in interactive discussions and educational activities.
- Graded exams and weekly written assignments and managed the Learn@UW class page.

**Teaching Assistant: Sustainable and Socially Just Consumption**

Spring 2014

*University of Wisconsin - Madison; Madison, WI*

- Facilitated two one-hour discussion classes per week with approximately 20 students per section.
- Developed weekly lesson plans for each section. Guided the students through large and small group discussions, debates, and educational activities.
- Assisted the instructor in formulating the syllabus, developing assignments, and writing exams.
- Graded exams and weekly written assignments and entered grades into Moodle in a timely manner.

**SERVICE****Law and Society Association**

- Established the Law and the Food System Collaborative Research Network (CRN) in September 2016.
- Managed the Law and the Food System CRN from September 2016 – present, which involves coordinating conference papers, panels, and events and maintaining an active contact database.
- Organized a food systems law panel for the 2016 annual conference.

**Food and the Wisconsin Idea**

April 2015 – Present

Planned interdisciplinary networking events for University of Wisconsin – Madison faculty and graduate students and regional community members that work on food systems issues. The planning committee includes people from agricultural systems, extension, history, planning, and soil science departments.

**AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corporation (NCCC)**

October 2009 – August 2010

Selected to serve in residential community service program that provides direct service to communities across the North Central region of the United States. Addressed education, unmet human needs, environment, public safety and disaster relief issues with residents, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

## WORK

**Special Counsel;** Denver, CO

December 2011 – January 2013

*Senior Risk Review Analyst for Promontory Financial Group*

- Conducted risk review on mortgages that went into foreclosure during 2009 and 2010 per an investigation by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.
- Trained new employees on the policies and procedures for reviewing Home Equity and Financial loans.
- Mentored experienced analysts on increasing the accuracy and efficiency of their reviews and to prepare them for a promotion to senior analyst.
- Proposed procedural improvements to analyzing Home Equity servicing systems and capturing data in Allonhill's Due Diligence System.

**Clarion Associates;** Denver, CO

May 2011 – October 2011

*Zoning and Land Use Intern*

- Wrote staff memos on the following topics: fair housing issues in Boise, ID; sustainability policy techniques and tools for Tucson, AZ; smart growth in rural communities; and wildfire regulations.
- Edited the permitted use table for Youngstown, OH. Removed out-of-date or unnecessary land use classifications and consolidated the uses into modern terms and broader categories.
- Simplified the land use application procedures for Garfield County, CO by consolidating procedures and writing concise provisions.
- Formatted land development codes for public and staff drafts – ensured consistency.

**U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Regional Office;** Golden CO

January 2011 – May 2011

*Strategic Planning Intern*

- Analyzed appeals to range grazing projects throughout the 14 Rocky Mountain National Forests. Prepared a report that synthesized the appeal decisions and created planning recommendations for the Forest Service's implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act. The report advises the National Forests on how to prepare legally defensible environmental analyses.
- Identified a procedural error in an appeal to a cooperating agency environmental impact statement. Recommended solutions to protect the Forest Service from potential litigation.

**Town of Bar Harbor;** Bar Harbor, ME

June 2009 – October 2009

*Planning Intern*

- Assisted the Planning Director in drafting language for amendments to the Land Use Ordinance by researching regulations in similar communities and analyzing the effects in relation to the economic and environmental goals outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Coordinated a regional event to discuss conservation issues.
- Contributed staff support to five committees.
- Provided information and technical assistance to the public in planning and code enforcement.