

AHARON DE GRASSI

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EDUCATION

PhD, 2015, Department of Geography, University of California, Berkeley,
Dissertation: Provisional Reconstructions: Geo-Histories of Infrastructure and Agrarian Configuration in Malanje, Angola.
MPhil, 2004, Development Studies, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.
Dissertation: The Poverty of New Institutional Economics: Sharecropping in Ghana.
BA, 2000, Development Studies, University of California, Berkeley. Summa Cum Laude, Highest Distinction in Development Studies Major. Thesis: Development Struggles: How Much do Post-Development Accounts Reveal about a Green Revolution Project in Africa?

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, Anthropology Department, University of California, Santa Cruz (2017-).
Post-Doctoral Associate, Yale University, Program in Agrarian Studies, New Haven (2015-16).
Instructor, University of California, Berkeley, Geography Department (2015).
Graduate Student Instructor, University of California, Berkeley (2007, 2013).
Research Consultant, ActionAid International, Johannesburg/Berkeley (2010).
Research Consultant, Int'l Institute for Environment and Development, London (2005-7).
Research Consultant, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC (2006).
Research Assistant & Consultant, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, UK (2003-05).
Research Consultant, Overseas Development Institute, London (2004).
Research Intern, Network of West African Peasant Organizations, Ouagadougou (2003).
Research Consultant, World Resources Institute, Accra (2001-2).
Research Intern, World Resources Institute (Governance Program), Washington DC (2001).
Office Assistant, American Council on Voluntary Int'l Action, Washington DC (2001).
Research Intern, Institute for Food and Development Policy, Oakland (1998-2001).
Research Apprentice, Study on Globalization and Development, UC Berkeley (1999-2000).

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- (2018) 'Beyond Gatekeeper Spatial Metaphors of the State in Africa: Relational Geo-Histories of Angola,' *Third World Thematics* 3: 1-21.
(2018) 'Changing Paths and Histories: Mapping Pre-Colonial Connections in Africa,' *Radical History Review* 131 (May): 169-175.
(2017) 'Trajectories of Large-Scale Land Dynamics in Angola: History, Diversity, and Policy Implications for the Political Economy of Development in Africa,' *Land Use Policy* 67 (September): 115-125. [primary author, with Jesse Ovadia]

- (2015) 'Rethinking the 1961 Baixa de Kassanje Revolt: Towards a Relational Geo-History of Angola,' *Mulemba: Revista Angolana de Ciências Sociais [Angolan Journal of Social Sciences]* 5(10):53-133.
- (2008) "'Neopatrimonialism" and African Agricultural Development: Contributions and Limitations of a Contested Concept,' *African Studies Review* 51(3): 107-133.
- (2007) 'Envisioning Futures of African Agriculture: Representation, Power and Socially Constituted Time,' *Progress in Development Studies* 7(2): 79-98.

Other Journal Articles

- (2005) 'Transport, Poverty, and Agrarian Change in Africa: Models, Mechanisms and New Ways Forward', *IDS Bulletin* 36(2): 52-57.
- (2005) 'Special Issue: New Directions for African Agriculture,' *IDS Bulletin* 36(2) [Co-Editor with Ian Scoones, Stephen Devereux, Lawrence Haddad].
- (2001) '(Mis)Understanding Agro-Environmental Change in Africa,' *Berkeley Undergraduate Journal* 27: 1-55.

Book Chapters

- (2003) '(Mis)Understanding Change in Agro-Environmental Technology in Africa: Charting and Refuting the Myth of Population-Induced Breakdown,' in T. Zeleza and I. Kakoma (eds), *In Search of Modernity: Science and Technology in Africa*, Trenton: Africa World Press, 473-505.

Maps

- (2018) 'Water and African Liberation: The 1961 Kassanje Revolt,' in *Water: An Atlas*, Oakland, Guerrilla Cartography, 128-129.
- (2017) Portuguese Angola & Ndongo ca.1550-1663, Kongo & Ndongo ca.1550, Portuguese Angola & Ndongo ca.1622, Portuguese Angola & Ndongo ca.1649, and Portuguese Angola & Ndongo-Matamba ca.1663, in Linda Heywood, *Njinga of Angola: Africa's Warrior Queen*, Cambridge, Harvard University Press.
- (2008) 'Mapping Corporate Connections at Cal,' in *Cal Disorientation*, Oakland: Bay Area Alternative Press.

Other Publications

- (2015) Provisional Reconstructions: Geo-Histories of Infrastructure and Agrarian Configuration in Malanje, Angola, PhD Dissertation, Department of Geography, University of California, Berkley, August 14, 461 pp.
- (2010) HungerFree Scorecard 2010: Who's Really Fighting Hunger, Johannesburg: ActionAid International [contributor, Jo Walker primary author].
- (2010) Securing Future Food: Towards Ecological Food Provision, Briefing, London: United Kingdom Food Group [K. Bundell primary author, with N. Parrott].
- (2008) 'Who Runs Our University? Meet "The Regents"' and 'Democratizing the Regents: Past, Present & Future,' in 2008 Dis-Orientation Guide to UC Berkeley, Oakland: Bay Area Alternative Press, pp. 11-12.
- (2007) Linking Research and Policy: The Case of Ghana's Rice Trade Policy, Draft Ghana Strategy Support Program Background Paper No. 10, Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute, 60 pp.

- (2004) Food Security Options in Mozambique: One Country, Two Worlds? Country Food Security Options Paper No. 3, London: Forum for Food Security in Southern Africa, Overseas Development Institute, 58 pp [with Steve Wiggins].
- (2004) 'Biotechnology, Hunger and Poverty in Africa: Assessing Gains from GE Crops,' in Fact Sheets on Biotechnology and Biosafety, Harare: Consumers International-Africa, pp. 6-7, July.
- (2004) 'Ghana: Loggers and Politicians, not Small Farmers, are to Blame for Deforestation,' World Rainforest Movement Bulletin 85: 12-13.
- (2003) 'Public Sector Crop Breeding: Which Public?,' *Seedling*, July: 18-21 [with Peter Rosset].
- (2003) Genetically Modified Crops and Sustainable Poverty Alleviation in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Assessment of Current Evidence, Accra: Third World Network-Africa, 82 pp.
- (2003) Constructing Subsidiarity, Consolidating Hegemony: Political Economy and Agro-Ecological Processes in Ghanaian Forestry, Environmental Governance in Africa Working Paper No. 13, Washington, DC: World Resources Institute, 34 pp.

Other Papers & Reports

- (2016) 'Towards a Critical Geography of State Power in Africa: Configuring Agrarian Angola,' Paper for the Yale Program in Agrarian Studies Colloquium, New Haven, April 15, 54 pp.
- (2015) 'Conjunctures in Angola: Praxis and Provisional Reconstruction,' paper for the workshop Challenges & Possibilities in Contemporary Angola, Stanford University, November 16, 41 pp.
- (2012) 'Geographies of Construction and Trajectories of Agrarian Change in Oil-Boom Angola,' paper for the International Academic Conference on Global Land Grabbing II, Ithaca, Cornell University, October 17-19, 41 pp.
- (2011) 'Hands that Feed: Power, Accountability and the Democratic Deficit in African Agricultural Policy Processes,' Draft, London: International Institute for Environment and Development, 127 pp.
- (2009) The 21st Century Strong Public University: A Proposal for the Reform of the Structure of the Board of Regents of the University of California, UCdemocracy.org, December 7, 56 pp & Appendices.
- (2007) 'Sometimes They Call us To Meetings': The Political Economy of Agricultural Research and Policy Processes in Ghana, Report Submitted to the Development Strategy and Governance Division, Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute, 104 pp.
- (2005) 'Political Studies of African Agricultural Policy Processes, 1975-2005: Review, Critique, and Recommendations,' Background Paper for the Agriculture Learning Consortium, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, 26 pp.
- (2005) 'Beyond Blueprints: Agricultural Transformations and Growth Linkages in Asia and Africa,' Background Paper for the Agriculture Learning Consortium, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, 20 pp.
- (2005) 'Feeding Tomorrow: Evaluating the Potential of Agro-Ecology,' Report to the United Kingdom Food Group, London, June, 115 pp.
- (2004) The Poverty of New Institutional Economics: Sharecropping in Ghana, and the Problems with Economic Theories of Agrarian Institutions, Masters of Philosophy Dissertation in Development Studies, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, 100 pp.

- (2004) 'Introducing Agricultural Technologies to Reduce Hunger and Poverty in Africa: A Framework for Evaluation,' Paper submitted for the conference Hunger, Food Aid and GMOs, July 15-16, Maputo, 26 pp.
- (2003) *The Green Revolution in Africa: Myths and Realities*, Oakland: Institute for Food and Development Policy, book manuscript, 250 pp [with Peter Rosset].
- (2003) 'Genetically Modified Crops and Sustainable Poverty Alleviation in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Empirical Assessment of Current Evidence,' Paper presented at the International Working Meeting: Improving Food Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, Yaoundé, May 5-9, 12 pp.
- (2003) 'Relations between Peasant Organizations and Agricultural Research Institutes: A Review with Application to ROPPA,' Background Paper for the West African Network of Peasant and Producer Organizations, Ouagadougou, 77 pp.
- (2003) 'Advantages of Smallholder Family Agriculture for West African Development: A Review of Concepts,' Background Paper for the West African Network of Peasant and Producer Organizations, Ouagadougou, 21 pp.
- (2000) *Development Struggles: How Much do Post-Development Accounts Reveal about a Classical Green Revolution Project in Africa?* [Ghana], Honors Thesis for Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies, Berkeley: International and Area Studies Department, University of California, Berkeley, 200 pp.

CONFERENCES

Invited Talks

- (2016) Presentation, *Cuba and the Way Forward: USA, Angola, Latin America and Beyond* Roundtable, African American Studies Department, Boston University, April 26.
- (2012) *A 21st Century African Neo-Geography Seen from a Malanje Furrow* [in Portuguese, *A Neo-Geografia Africana do Seculo XXI Vista desde uma Mubanga Malanjina*], Friday Debate, Development Workshop, Luanda, April 27.
- (2011) *Agricultural Trade in Africa and Angola* [in Portuguese, *Comércio Agrário em Àfrica e Angola*], Development Workshop, Luanda, January 18.

Panels & Events Organized

- (2015) *New Considerations of Labour, Power, and Resistance in Angolan History, with Contemporary Resonances in Africa* (Co-Organizer), 6th European Conference of African Studies, July 8-10, University of Paris, Sorbonne.
- (2012) *Building Angola: Post-Conflict Reconstruction Beyond Luanda*, African Studies Association 55th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November 29 - December 2.
- (2001) Assistant Organizer, International Conference on Land Reform, International Land Coalition, San Cristóbal, Mexico, February.

Participation in Colloquiums, Meetings & Workshops

- (2016) Agrarian Studies Seminar, MacMillan Center, Yale University, September 2015 - May 2016.
- (2016) 'Towards a Critical Geography of State Power in Africa: Configuring Agrarian Angola,' Paper for the Yale Program in Agrarian Studies Colloquium, New Haven, April 15.

- (2015) 'Conjunctures in Angola: Praxis and Provisional Reconstruction,' Paper for the Challenges & Possibilities in Contemporary Angola Workshop, Stanford University, November 16.
- (2013) Antipode's 4th Institute for the Geographies of Justice, Durban, May 27 - June 1.
- (2002) World Food Summit & Forum for Food Sovereignty, Rome, June.
- (1998-2000) Environmental Politics Colloquium, Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley.
- (1998) Overseas Development Network Student Leadership Conference, San Francisco, July.

Conference Presentations

- (2018) '“Dust in the Wind”? Frontiers as Recursive Spaces in the Hinterland Constructions of Oil-Boom Angola,' Presentation at the Panel 'A Geography of the Edge: Frontiers in the Contemporary Moment,' Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, April 13.
- (2018) 'Amílcar Cabral as an Early Engaged Political Ecologist: Relational Studies of Lusophone Land, Production, and Capital Circulation, 1948-61,' Presentation for the Conference 'Amílcar Cabral: O “Combatente Anónimo” pelos Direitos Fundamentais da Humanidade,' Instituto de História Contemporânea, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, March 1-3.
- (2017) 'Oil and Extraction in Angola 1956-86: Expenditure, Infrastructure and Institutional Changes,' Presentation at the 60th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Chicago, November 17.
- (2017) 'History, Geography and Institutional Change in Angola: Insights from Malanje, 19th Century to the Present,' Presentation at the International Congress "Angola: Legacies of the Past, Challenges of the Present," History Center, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, November 14.
- (2017) 'Infrastructure as Archive: Reading Colonial Road Maps for Histories of Forced Labor,' in panel Geographies of Infrastructure, State-Making and Political Subjectivity, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Boston, April 5-9.
- (2016) 'Spatialities of Power in Africa: Cartographic Constructions of Continuity and Change,' Poster, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco, March 31.
- (2016) 'Livelihood and Hunger in Angola during Oil Gluts,' Visiting Scholars Academic Exchange, Yale University, New Haven, January 29.
- (2015) 'Beyond Gatekeeping Spatial Metaphors of the State in Africa: Spatiality and Infrastructure Reconstruction in Post-War Oil-Boom Angola,' African Studies Association 58th Annual Meeting, San Diego, November.
- (2015) 'How to Create Rural Employment from Oil: Nationalist Agrarian Revolts, Mechanization, and the Roots of Angola's Contemporary Tractor Modernism,' 6th European Conference of African Studies, July 8-10, Sorbonne University, Paris.
- (2015) 'Oil for Rural Development in Angola? Two Mbaka Questions in Geo-Historical Perspective,' PhD Exit Talk, Department of Geography, University of California, Berkeley, May 6.
- (2014) 'O Caminho Seguro: A Geo-Historical Ethnography of the Luanda-Malanje Road and its Reconstruction,' African Studies Association 57th Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, November 20-23.
- (2014) 'Theory and Practice of Regional Connections Research: Space and Power in Angola,' II International Conference on Angola: New Directions in Angolan Research, St. Peter's College, Oxford University, March 17-18.

- (2013) 'Between Rocks, Rivers and Reordenamento: Agrarian Transformations and Strategies of Rural Development in Malanje, Angola, 1950-2012,' 5th European Conference on African Studies, Lisbon, June 27-29.
- (2012) 'Re-spatializing African Political Economy: Infrastructure and Agrarian Transitions and Differentiation in the Hinterlands of Oil-Boom Angola,' African Studies Association 55th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November 29 - December 2.
- (2012) 'Geographies of Construction and Trajectories of Agrarian Change in Oil-Boom Angola,' Panel on Governance I: From Past to Present, International Academic Conference on Global Land Grabbing II, Ithaca: Cornell University, October 17-19.
- (2011) 'Geography and the Politics of Method in the Study of Angola,' The Study of Angola: Towards a New Research Agenda, St. Peter's College, Oxford University, July 1-2.
- (2011) 'Power, Accountability and the Democratic Deficit in African Agricultural Policy Processes,' Paper Presented to the 2007 Breslauer Graduate Student Symposium Rule of Experts: Development, Knowledge, and the Politics of Global Poverty, April 13-14, Townsend Center for the Humanities, University of California, Berkeley.
- (2006) 'Rethinking Agrarian Mobilization in Africa: A Century of Theory and History,' African Studies Association 49th Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 18 [Panel Chair].
- (2001) '(Mis)Understanding Change in Agro-Environmental Technology in Africa: Charting and Refuting the Myth of Population Growth-Induced Breakdown,' 27th Annual Symposium, Technology and Development in Africa, African Studies Center, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, April 25-28.
- (1999) 'Energy, Technology Dissemination, and the Green Revolution in Africa: Lessons and Linkages', paper for the Sasakawa Youth Leadership Foundation Forum on Distributed Electricity Services, Cape Town, South Africa, June 6-9, 11 pp.

AWARDS

Graduate Division Travel Grant, UC Berkeley	2013
Graduate Division Summer Research Grant, UC Berkeley	2012
Center for African Studies Rocca Scholarship, UC Berkeley	2012
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship	2010-11
Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley	2009-10
Foreign Languages and Area Studies Summer Fellowship – Kimbundu	2009
Foreign Languages and Area Studies Year Fellowship – Swahili	2008-9
Foreign Languages and Area Studies Summer Fellowship – Kimbundu	2008
Rocca Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley	2008
Foreign Languages and Area Studies Fellowship – Portuguese	2007-8
Stipend from Department of Geography, UC Berkeley	2006-8
Gordon White Scholarship, Institute of Development Studies	2003
Summa Cum Laude, UC Berkeley	2000
Departmental Citation, Development Studies, UC Berkeley	2000
Highest Honors, International Area Studies, UC Berkeley	2000
Best Essay Prize, Berkeley Undergraduate Journal	2000
Phi Beta Kappa Member	1999

Dean's Honors List, UC Berkeley	1996-9
Edward Frank Kraft Scholarship, UC Berkeley	1997
Co-Valedictorian, Harbor High School	1996

TEACHING

University of California, Berkeley

2015, Global Environmental Politics, Upper-Division (Geography 138)

University of California, Berkeley

Instructor, International and Area Studies Department

2007, Development in Theory and History, Upper Division (Development Studies 100)

2007, Introduction to Development, Lower Division (Development Studies 10)

2013, Development in Theory and History, Upper Division (Development Studies 100)

Courses Prepared to Teach:

Geography of Africa

Africa, Geography and Power

Geographic Theory

Introduction to International Development

International Development Theory

Resources and Development

Political Economy of African Development

Agrarian Studies

Agro-Ecology

Rural Development

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Peer-review of articles and reports (2001-2017): *African Affairs, Agriculture and Human Values, Human Ecology, Science and Public Policy*, and the Environmental Accountability in Africa project (WRI), The Panos Institute, The Responsive Forest Governance Initiative (CODESRIA, IUCN, Univ. of Illinois), and the Sustainable Livelihoods in Southern Africa project (IDS).

Contributor, UC Berkeley Department of Geography Professor Hiring Process (2013).

Graduate Student Representative, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation, UC Berkeley Academic Senate (03/2009-08/2010).

Chair, International Student Affairs Committee, UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly (09/2008-06/2009).

Graduate Student Assembly Representative, Department of Geography, UC Berkeley (09/2007-06/2009).

Member, External Affairs and Budget Committees, UC Berkeley Graduate Student Assembly (09/2007-06/2008).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

(from date of initial membership)

(2005) African Studies Association

(2006) Association of American Geographers
(2006) American Anthropological Association

FIELD WORK

Angola December 2015-January 2016
Angola July 2013
Angola November 2010-November 2012
Angola June-September 2009
Angola June-September 2008
Ghana July-August 2006
Burkina Faso June-August 2004
Ghana October 2001-July 2002
Mexico January 2001
Costa Rica June-August 1999

LANGUAGES

English native
Portuguese proficient
Spanish intermediate
French intermediate reading; basic written, spoken, & listening
Kimbundu basic
Twi some basic
Swahili some basic

COMPUTING SKILLS:

Office: MS Office, LibreOffice, Google Docs, Google Calendar
Mapping: QGIS, ArcGIS, Google Earth
Reference: EndNote, Zotero, Google Scholar, WorldCat, Jstor, Factiva, LexisNexis, Mendeley, ProCite and some Reference Manager
Email: Gmail, Outlook, Thunderbird
QDA: NVivo
Statistical: Excel, SPSS, some STATA and R
Database: Access, Filemaker
Graphics: Adobe Photophop & Illustrator (and some Gimp & Inkscape), IrfanView, Paint.Net
E-books: Adobe Digital Editions, Acrobat Pro, Kindle, GoogleBooks, Calibre, ABBYY FineReader OCR
Social Media: Twitter, WordPress, RSS-Feedly, FeedDemon, YouTube, GoogleAnalytics, PressDisplay, Skype, Pidgin
Coding: Some html and CSS.
Mobile: Android, iOS, Blackberry, Windows
Other: DropBox, VPN, Filezilla

MEDIA COVERAGE

International Herald Tribune, The Guardian (UK), Parliament of the United Kingdom, Novo Jornal (Angola), Seminário Económico (Angola), Australian Public Radio, The New Scientist, Agence

de Presse Africaine, The Daily Cal (Berkeley), The Observer (Uganda), The Daily Star (Bangladesh), Ghana News Agency, and others.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.