

Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

SPEAKER SERIES

Small farming as social reproduction: Diverse agrarian economies in India, Bosnia and the US

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“Feeding the world” is a common trope in discussions of environmental sustainability and visions of the future. There is plenty to critique about a contemporary global capitalist food regime that emerged from the colonial world order, but much of this talk focuses on how to recognize inspiring alternative agricultures that already exist. By bridging discussions across World Ecology, Critical Agrarian Studies, and the Diverse Economies framework, I offer a way to account for the invisible-but-indispensable work done by farmers and other living beings that maintains agrarian worlds: social reproduction. Drawing from ethnographic case studies on small farms across India, Bosnia, and the USA, I show how farms can create diverse ecologies through diversified economies, why that work helps farms sustain communities in place across political and environmental change, and explain what happens when agricultures fail to do so. By looking to the rippling social and environmental impacts of small-scale farms and gardens across the world, this talk celebrates the ways alternative agriculture reproduces life itself.

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McCain, #1116

All Welcome!