

ISAAC SOHN LESLIE

Dr. Isaac “Ike” Leslie (they)

University of Vermont

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[Publication statistics](#) | [Open Researcher and Contributor ID](#)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2022- Extension Assistant Professor of Community Development, University of Vermont
- 2023- Faculty, Food Systems Graduate Program
- 2023- Collaborator, Institute for Agroecology
- 2021-22 Postdoctoral Research Associate in Food Systems, University of New Hampshire

EDUCATION

- 2020 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Ph.D. Minor, International Environmental Law
- 2016 M.A., Sociology, University of New Hampshire
- 2016 M.S., Natural Resources, University of New Hampshire
- 2010 B.A., International Studies and Music, Vassar College

EXPERTISE

Community and economic development (rural and international)

Environmental sociology (qualitative, participatory, and mixed methods)

Food systems (food justice, agroecology, and farm viability)

Gender and sexuality (and intersections with race, ethnicity, nation, class, ability, and religion)

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- 2021 Bell, Michael Mayerfeld, Loka L. Ashwood, Isaac Sohn Leslie, and Laura Hanson Schlachter. *An Invitation to Environmental Sociology*. 6th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA, and London, UK: Sage.

Covered in [The Guardian](#)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Special Issue Editor

- 2019 Leslie, Isaac Sohn, Jaclyn Wypler, and Michael Mayerfeld Bell. “Relational Agriculture: Gender, Sexuality, and Sustainability in U.S. Farming.” *Society and Natural Resources* 32(8):853-74.

Covered in [The Boston Globe](#), [The Sierra Club Magazine](#), and on [Indiana Public Media](#)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

In press Bruce, Analena, Elise Neidecker, Luyue Zheng, Isaac Sohn Leslie, and Alexa Wilhelm. “‘A Farm is Viable if it Can Keep its Head Above Water:’ Defining and Measuring Farm Viability for Small and Mid-sized Farms.” *Agriculture and Human Values*.

2024 Leslie, Isaac Sohn, Alexa Wilhelm, and Analena Bruce. “‘Marriage is Necessary:’ How Accessing Infrastructure through the Family Farm Affects Viability, Transitions, and Justice.” *Agriculture and Human Values* 41:1369-84.

Covered in [Morning AgClips](#)

2024 Leslie, Isaac Sohn. “Social Mycorrhiza: The Social Infrastructure of Agroecological Farming Economies.” *Environmental Sociology* 10(1):42-54.

2023 Hoffelmeyer, Michaela, Jaelyn Wypler, and Isaac Sohn Leslie. “Surveying Queer Farmers: How Heteropatriarchy Affects Farm Viability and Farmer Well-being in U.S. Agriculture.” *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* 12(3):111-25.

2023 Leslie, Isaac Sohn, Jessica Carson, and Analena Bruce. “LGBTQ+ Food Insufficiency in New England.” *Agriculture and Human Values* 40:1039-54.

Covered on [New Hampshire Public Radio](#), [Public News Service](#) and the [New Hampshire Bulletin](#)

2019 Leslie, Isaac Sohn. “Queer Farmland: Land Access Strategies for Small-Scale Agriculture.” *Society and Natural Resources* 32(8):928-46.

Covered in [Civil Eats](#), [Wisconsin Public Radio](#), [Milwaukee Public Radio](#), and [Wisconsin Watch](#)

2019 Crowley, Morgan, Kara E. Shannon, Isaac Sohn Leslie, Andrea Jilling, Cameron D. McIntire, and Emily Kyker-Snowman. “Sustainable Beef Production in New England: Policy and Value Chain Challenges and Opportunities.” *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems* 43(3):274-98.

2017 Leslie, Isaac Sohn. “Improving Farmers Markets and Challenging Neoliberalism in Argentina.” *Agriculture and Human Values* 34(3):729-42.

2017 Leslie, Isaac Sohn. “Queer Farmers: Sexuality and the Transition to Sustainable Agriculture.” *Rural Sociology* 82(4):747-71.

Covered in [The Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#), [The Bangor Daily News](#), [The Keene Sentinel](#), and [The Planet Magazine](#)

Book Chapters

In press Hoffelmeyer, Michaela and Isaac Sohn Leslie (equal authorship). “Queering Food Justice: Confronting White Heteropatriarchy in U.S. Agriculture.” In *Nourishing Food Justice*, edited by Alison Alkon and Julian Agyeman. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

2018 Leslie, Isaac Sohn and Monica M. White. “Race and Food: Agricultural Resistance in U.S. History.” Pp. 347-64 in *Handbook of the Sociology of Racial and Ethnic Relations*, edited by Pinar Batur and Joe Feagin. New York, NY: Springer.

Policy Brief

2021 Carson, Jess, Analena Bruce, and Isaac Sohn Leslie. “Half of New Hampshire Residents Buy Local Farm Food at Least a Few Times a Month, But Engagement Varies by County.” *Carsey School of Public Policy*, Regional Issue Brief #65: 1-4.

Covered on [New Hampshire Public Radio](#), in the [Concord Monitor](#), the [New Hampshire Bulletin](#), the [New Hampshire Business Review](#), the [New Hampshire Union Leader](#), and [Foster’s Daily Democrat](#)

GRANTS **10** worth **\$1,632,391** awarded while at UVM
 8 worth **\$1,534,688** awarded as PI or Co-PI while at UVM
 17 worth **\$3,391,359** requested while at UVM

2024 University of Vermont Food Systems Graduate Program Project Synergy Grant, “Community Development for Food Justice in Vermont.” PI: Isaac Sohn Leslie. \$1,800

2024 U.S. Department of Agriculture AFRI (Agriculture and Food Research Initiative), “Early Exit Farmers: New Perspectives on Small and Medium-sized Farm Viability and Farmer Wellbeing in New England.” PI: Isaac Sohn Leslie; Co-PI: Beth Holtzman. \$299,821

2024 University of Vermont Institute for Agroecology, “Three UVM Food Justice Lab Pilot Projects with Trans and Queer Farmers and Farmers of Color in New England.” PI: Isaac Sohn Leslie. \$15,000

2023 University of Vermont Food Systems Research Center, “ASPIRES Listening Tour for Marginalized Groups.” PI: Isaac Sohn Leslie. \$5,834

2023 University of Vermont Food Systems Graduate Program Project Synergy Grant, “Establishing the UVM Food Justice Lab.” PI: Isaac Sohn Leslie. \$1,800

2023 University of Vermont Food Systems Research Center, “Sustainability Metrics for Consumer-Facing Agriculture.” PI: David Conner; Co-PIs: Lisa Chase, Gillian Galford, and Isaac Sohn Leslie; Key Personnel: Juan Alvez, Emily Belarmino, Farryl Bertmann, Terry Bradshaw, Mark Cannella, Joshua Faulkner, Maire Folan, and Eric Bishop von Wettberg. \$599,840

2023 University of Vermont Food Systems Research Center, “Social Values, Identity, and Sustainability Outcomes: Measuring Social Processes in Agriculture.” PI: Joseph Ament; Co-PIs: Isaac Sohn Leslie and Daniel Tobin; Key personnel: Scott Merrill, Caitlin Morgan, and Amy Trubek; Advisors: Kristal Jones and NOFA-VT. \$580,596.

2022 Sociological Initiatives Foundation, “Rural LGBTQ+ Health in New England.” Co-PIs: Isaac Sohn Leslie and Out in the Open. \$20,000

2022 U.S. Department of Agriculture Northeast SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension), “Developing Mediated Market Models to Increase Consumer Engagement and Market Access for New England Farmers.” PI: Analena Bruce; Co-PIs: Jess Carson, Isaac Sohn Leslie, and Kenesha Reynolds; Advisors: David Conner and Jennifer Hashley. \$257,846

2021 U.S. Department of Agriculture AFRI (Agriculture and Food Research Initiative), “Increasing Consumer Participation in Alternative Food Networks to Support Small and Medium-Sized Farms.” PI: Analena Bruce; Co-PIs: Jess Carson and Isaac Sohn Leslie; Advisors: Semra Aytur and Lawrence Hamilton. \$299,724

- 2020 Rural Sociological Society Dissertation Research Award, “Local Food Myths: Agriculture’s Global Green New Deal.” \$3,187
- 2020 University of Wisconsin-Madison Crowe Dissertation Research Award, “Local Food Myths: Agriculture’s Global Green New Deal.” \$3,000
- 2020 Mellon-Wisconsin Fellowship, “Local Food Myths: Agriculture’s Global Green New Deal.” \$7,380
- 2019 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship in Argentina, “Alternative Agriculture as a Development Strategy: Certified Organic and Agroecological Food Systems in Argentina.” \$25,784
- 2018 University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems Mini-Grant, “Sustainable Food System Law and Policy.” \$2,500
- 2017 Fulbright Study/Research Award in Argentina, “Sustaining Family Farms and Farmers Markets in the Rural Pampas.” \$10,650
- 2017 University of Wisconsin-Madison Crowe Pre-Dissertation Research Award, “Small-scale Farmers’ Relationship and Livelihood Strategies.” \$1,500
- 2015 Rural Sociological Society Master’s Thesis Research Award, “Masculinity and Sexuality on Farms: Implications for the Transition to Sustainable Agriculture.” \$500
- 2015 Vassar College Research Grant, “Is CSA Farming a Form of Dissent?” PI: Pinar Batur; Researchers: Danielle Falzon and Isaac Sohn Leslie. \$1,000
- 2013 Honda Motor Company Educational Assistance Program for supplemental M.S. coursework in Sustainable Food Systems at Green Mountain College. \$3,000
- 2013 Vassar College Fellowship for Graduate Study for supplemental M.S. coursework in Sustainable Food Systems at Green Mountain College. \$2,500

HONORS and AWARDS

- 2023 University of New Hampshire Sustainability Award for article “LGBTQ+ Food Insufficiency in New England”
- 2019 Rural Sociological Society Olaf Larson Graduate Student Paper Award for article “Queer Farmland: Land Access Strategies for Small-Scale Agriculture”
- 2019 University of Wisconsin-Madison Genevieve Gorst Herfurth Award for article “Queer Farmland: Land Access Strategies for Small-Scale Agriculture”
- 2017 Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Graduate Student Paper Award Honorable Mention for article “Queer Farmland: Land Access Strategies for Small-Scale Agriculture”
- 2016 University of New Hampshire Kidder Fund Award for outstanding efforts in fostering understanding and advancing opportunities for LGBTQ+ people
- 2014 Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center Exceptional Instructor Award
- 2013 Berklee City Music Network Emerging Service Leader Award
- 2010 Vassar College General and Departmental Honors in International Studies and Music

2010 Vassar College Glen Johnson Prize for excellence in International Studies and a thesis of particular strength and originality (“*Hip hop contestatorio: Transformative Rap from Urban Bolivia*”)

PRESENTATIONS 1101 people in the audience while at UVM
8 media appearances while at UVM

Invited

- 2024 Justice and Sustainability in Agriculture
University of California Santa Cruz (class), online
- 2023 Taking a Position: Pushing for Food System Transformation from Different Perspectives
University of Vermont (Institute for Agroecology conference [panel](#), [español](#)), Burlington, VT
- 2023 Building Alternative Food Economies for Justice and Sustainability
University of New Hampshire (class), online
- 2023 LGBTQI+ Urban Farmers’ Roundtable
U.S. Department of Agriculture (Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production and Equality panel), online
- 2023 Rural and Agricultural Genders and Sexualities (with Michaela Hoffelmeyer)
University of Maine (class), online
- 2022 Queering the Food System
Indiana Public Media ([podcast](#)), radio and online
- 2021-22 Queering Food Systems for Justice and Sustainability
Vassar College (class), online
Indiana University (Food Institute [webinar](#)), online
University of California Davis (Plant and Soil Sciences Department seminar), online
Babson College (class), online
- 2021 Defetishizing the Family Farm: Alternative Perspectives on Farm Life
Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting (panel), online
- 2021 Queering Qualitative Research on the Farm (with Michaela Hoffelmeyer)
Beloit College (class), online
- 2020 Gender, Sexuality, and Food Access
Bennington College (class), online
- 2019 What Are We Missing by Leaving LGBTQIA* Out of Natural Resource Management Research?
International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (panel), Oshkosh, WI

- 2018 Harvesting as Researchers and Farmers: Farming while Queer
Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting (panel), Portland, OR
- Public** (selected)
- 2022 LGBTQ+ Food Insufficiency in New England (with Jess Carson and Analena Bruce)
Vermont Foodbank Hunger Action Conference ([webinar](#)), online
- 2020 Gender, Agriculture, and Food Access (with Tatiana Abatemarco and students)
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont ([webinar](#)), online
- 2020 Queering Climate Activism
Vassar College Urban Education Initiative (presentation), Poughkeepsie, NY
- 2019 Farming for Justice: Queering Sustainable Agriculture (with Michaela Hoffelmeyer and Jaclyn Wypler)
Groundswell: Center for Local Food and Farming ([video](#)), online
- 2018 Sexuality and the Sustainable Agriculture Movement (with Jaclyn Wypler)
F.H. King: Students for Sustainable Agriculture (presentation), Madison, WI
- 2016 Integrating LGBTQ+ Topics into the Curriculum (with Tamsin Whitehead and Mark Anthony)
University of New Hampshire (workshop), Durham, NH
- 2016 Sexuality and Sustainable Agriculture
Northeast Organic Farming Association New Hampshire Winter Meeting (workshop), Concord, NH
- 2013 Queer! Facilitating Real Conversations
Coalition of Essential Schools Fall Forum (workshop), San Francisco, CA
- 2013 Using PULSE (Pre-University Learning System Experience) with Limited Resources
Berklee College of Music PULSE Training Institute (workshop), Boston, MA
- 2013 Staff and Student Community Development (with Dan Condon)
Big Picture Learning (workshop), South Burlington, VT
- 2012-13 Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements (with Michael Soguero)
Big Picture Learning (workshop), South Burlington, VT
- 2012 Expanding Partnerships: Teachers as Learners, Students as Teachers (with Helen Beattie)
Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together Conference (conference co-organizer), Montpelier, VT
- 2012 Assessing Your Students
Berklee College of Music PULSE Training Institute (workshop), Boston, MA
- 2012 Curriculum Development (with Michael Soguero)
Big Picture Learning (workshop), South Burlington, VT

Conference

- 2023 Food Justice in Extension
Extension Professional Improvement Conference (regular session), Killington, VT
- 2022 Queering Food Justice (with Michaela Hoffelmeyer)
American Association of Geographers (regular session), online
- 2021 “Organic is Capitalist and Agroecology is Socialist”: Alternative Farmers’ Approaches to Food Insecurity Beyond Dualisms
Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting (regular session), online
- 2019 Constructing a Sustainable Food System? Alternative Food Networks in Buenos Aires, Argentina (with Clara Craviotti)
Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting (regular session), New York, NY
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting (regular session), Boston, MA
- 2018 Queer Farmland: Land Access Strategies for Small-Scale Agriculture
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Environmental Sociology section session), Philadelphia, PA
Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting (regular session), Portland, OR
- 2017 Improving Farmers Markets and Challenging Neoliberalism in Argentina
Latin American Studies Association International Congress (regular session), Lima, Peru
- 2016 Struggling in the New England Countryside: Is CSA Farming a Form of Dissent? (with Danielle Falzon and Pinar Batur)
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (roundtable session), Seattle, WA
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting (regular session), Boston, MA
- 2016 The Co-Construction of Outness: Conducting Qualitative Research with Queer Farmers
Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting (regular session), Toronto, Canada
- 2015-16 Queer Farmers: Sexuality and the Transition to Sustainable Agriculture
International Rural Sociology Association World Congress (regular session), Toronto, Canada
Transecting Society Conference (regular session), Durham, NH

TEACHING

Public Events

University of Vermont, Extension Assistant Professor of Community Development

- 2022- Community and Economic Development programming
61 Educational activities delivered
277 Unique people reached
474 Times individuals participated

10 People received 6+ hours of direct education

18 Consultations

Graduate Student Advising

University of Vermont, Extension Assistant Professor of Community Development

- 2023- Ayana Curran-Howes, Ph.D. Candidate in Food Systems (Dissertation Committee Member): “Caring for the Killable: A Multi-case Study of the Ethics, Political Economy, and Design of Animal Agroecology in Vermont”
- 2023- Michelle Nikfarjam, Ph.D. Candidate in Food Systems (Dissertation Chair and Committee Member): “An Agroecological Vision of Agroforestry for Food Production, Ecological Restoration, and Social Equity in the Northeast”

University of New Hampshire, Postdoctoral Research Associate in Food Systems

- 2021-22 Alexa Wilhelm, M.S. in Agricultural Sciences (Thesis Committee Member): “Connecting New England Farmers to Large Retailers via Values-based Supply Chains”

Graduate Courses

University of New Hampshire, Postdoctoral Research Associate in Food Systems

- 2021 U.S. Food Systems: Political Economy, Governance, and Social Movements

High School Courses

Eagle Rock School, Music and Performance Instructional Specialist

- 2011-14 Music Ensembles
Director: *Eagle Rockapella, Improv Ensemble, and Vocal Ensemble*
- 2012-14 Theater and Society
Director: *In the Blood, In the Heights, Rent, Said and Meant, and Urinetown*
- 2013 Theater Production (costumes, lighting, props, and set)
- 2013 Latin Jazz Theory and Performance
- 2013 Community Problem Solving (community organizing, facilitation, and presentation techniques)
- 2012 (2x) Voices in Your Head (music theory and ear training)
- 2012 Digital Music and the Environment
- 2011 Digital Music Composition for Film
- 2011 Blue Notes (Blues improvisation and performance)

Eagle Rock School, AmeriCorps/Public Allies Teaching Fellow in Music

- 2011 Soil, Society, and Sustainability
- 2011 Improvisation (musical improvisation and performance)
- 2010 Race, Class, and Gender in Jazz History

Certifications

- 2014 Professional Teaching License, Eagle Rock Professional Development Center
- 2011 Initial Teaching License, Eagle Rock Professional Development Center

SERVICE

Public

- 2021- Member and Community Participatory Research Facilitator, Queer Agricultural Service Provider Cohort in the Northeast, Cultivemos/U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network
- 2021- Member and Community Participatory Research Facilitator, Rural Trans and Queer Health Justice Working Group, Out in the Open
- 2019- Listserv Moderator and Organizational Historian, Northeast Queer Farmers Alliance
- 2023-24 Advisory Committee Member, New Hampshire Queer Farmer Network
- 2021-22 Advisory Committee Member, New England Feeding New England, New England State Food System Planners Partnership

Government

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- 2023 Invited Panelist, NIFA Federal Grant Peer-Review Panel
- 2023 Co-chair, Northeast SARE Director Search Committee

Department

University of Vermont

- 2023- Member, Food Systems Recruitment and Admissions Committee
- 2023 Member, Extension Faculty Search Committee

University of New Hampshire

- 2021 Member, Food and Climate Research Network, Collaborative Research Excellence Interdisciplinary Working Group
- 2014-16 Facilitator, President's Commission on the Status of LGBTQ+ People Professional Development Working Group
- 2014-16 Director and President, Stonewall Grads
- 2015-16 Member, President's Commission on the Status of LGBTQ+ People

University of Wisconsin-Madison

- 2018 Graduate Student Representative, Department of Community and Environmental Sociology
- 2018 Graduate Student Representative, Department of Sociology Evaluation and Improvement of Instruction Committee

Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center

- 2011-14 Founder and Director, Berkelee City Music Network Site
- 2011-14 Co-founder and Advisor, Spectrum (LGBTQ+ discussion group)
- 2013-14 Facilitator, Diversity and Inclusion Critical Friends Group
- 2011-13 Member, Professional Development Critical Friends Group

Academic Associations

American Sociological Association

2019-20 Graduate Student Representative, Environmental Sociology Section Teaching and Outreach Committee

Rural Sociological Society

2018-19 Graduate Student Representative, Publications Committee

2017-18 Graduate Student Assistant, Gender and Sexualities Research Interest Group

2016-17 Graduate Student Representative, Development Committee

Manuscript Reviews

Agriculture and Human Values (3); *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems* (2); *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene* (1); *Environmental Sociology* (1); *Feminist Studies* (1); *Food, Culture and Society* (2); *Journal of Rural Studies* (1); *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies* (1); *Rural Sociology* (4); *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* (1); *Social Currents* (1)

OTHER

Professional Affiliations

Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society

American Sociological Association

Rural Sociological Society

Languages

English (native)

Spanish (fluent)