

KAREEM M. USHER, PH.D.
Curriculum Vitae

The Ohio State University
Knowlton School of Architecture - City and Regional Planning Section
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PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

Doctor of Philosophy: Urban and Regional Planning 2015

Florida State University: Tallahassee, Florida, United States of America

Dissertation Topic: Exploring the Effects of Formalised, Targeted Municipal Food Planning Initiatives on Access to Healthy Food. Dissertation Co-Advisors: Professors Tim Chapin, PhD and William Butler, PhD.

Master of Arts: Urban Planning 2005

University of Louisville: Louisville, Kentucky, U.S.A.

Specialisation: Housing and Community Development

Capstone: A Framework for Natural Hazards Mitigation in the Caribbean: Lessons Learned from Belize

Bachelor of Arts: Sociology 1997

Spalding University: Louisville, Kentucky, U.S.A.

Associates of Arts: Biology and Mathematics 1994

St. John's College Sixth Form (Junior College): Belize City, Belize, Central America

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor: September, 2015 - Present

Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture – City and Regional Planning Section
The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Faculty Affiliations: 2015 - Present

Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT)

Center for African Studies

Center for Latin American Studies

The STEAM Factory at The Ohio State University

Humanitarian Development and Innovation

Environmental Sciences Graduate Program

Food Innovation Center

Ohio Religion and Sustainability Speakers Bureau

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

Post-Doctoral Researcher: August, 2014 – August, 2015

Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture – City and Regional Planning Section
The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND CERTIFICATES

- 2013 Recipient: Dissertation Research Grant – The Graduate School, Florida State University
- 2013 Recipient: Global Partner Certificate – Training in Intercultural Competency
- 2007 Inductee: The Golden Key International Honour Society.

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- 2005 Hardin Fellow: School of Urban and Public Affairs, University of Louisville.
- 2005 Recipient: The *American Planning Association*, Kentucky Chapter's, "2005 Outstanding Student" Award.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Motoyama, Yasuyuki & **Usher, Kareem** (2020): Restaurant Reviews and Neighborhood Effects, *Papers in Applied Geography*, DOI: [10.1080/23754931.2020.1791942](https://doi.org/10.1080/23754931.2020.1791942)

Gragg, Richard Schulerbrandt, Anandhi, Aavudai, Jiru, Mintesinot and **Usher, Kareem M.** (2018). A Conceptualization of the Urban Food-Energy-Water Nexus Sustainability Paradigm: Modeling from Theory to Practice. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, 6(133). doi: 10.3389/fenvs.2018.00133.

Usher, Kareem M. (2015). Valuing all knowledges through an expanded definition of access. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 5(4). 109-114.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2015.054.018>

Sweeney, Glennon, Rogers, Christy, Hoy, Casey, Clark, Jill K., **Usher, Kareem**, Holley, Kip, & Spees, Colleen. (2015). Alternative agrifood projects in communities of color: A civic engagement perspective. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 5(4) 69-75.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2015.054.005>

Kaiser, Michelle L., **Usher, Kareem**, & Spees, Colleen. (2015). Community food security strategies: An exploratory study of their potential for food insecure households with children. *Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk*, 6(2).

Gragg, Richard S., Mitchell, M. Miaisha, **Usher, Kareem M.**, Schensul, Stephen, & Schensul, Jean. (2015). Collaboration of Community and University Scholars: Training in the transformation of research for community development. *Practicing Anthropology*, 37(4), 44-48.

Aurand, Andrew, Miles, Rebecca, & **Usher, Kareem**. (2014). Local Environment of Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) in a Mid-Sized U.S. City. *Journal of Housing for the Elderly*, 28(2), 133-164.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

Cleary, Patrick, Mercer, Kristin, **Usher, Kareem**, Wilk, Richard and Wainwright, Joel (Submitted March, 2020). Who will plant the food? Changes in food security and livelihood in an indigenous Maya village in Southern Belize. Intended journals, *Journal of Latin American & Caribbean Anthropology; Food Security*.

Usher, Kareem. (Submitted July, 2020). Planning with Compassion: A Path to new Pedagogies in Food Systems Planning. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*.

PAPERS IN PREPARATION

Usher, Kareem, Gragg, Richard Schulerbrandt, Anandhi, Aavudai, and Jiru, Mintesinot. Dimensions of Access Across the Urbanizing Food-Energy-Water Nexus. Intended journal, *Journal of Environmental Management* – special issue: 'Livable cities: current environmental challenges and paths for urban sustainability'.

Usher, Kareem, Adams, Ingrid, Figueroa, Wilson. Understanding the perception of African American Adults in Lexington, Kentucky regarding healthy food choices with the aim of developing culturally appropriate interventions. Intended journals, *Journal of Planning Education and Research; Journal of Agriculture and Human Values*.

Curtis, Kent, **Usher, Kareem**, Rodriguez, Mary, Sweeney, Glennon, Parker, Jason and Michel, Frederick. Community-led Design and Implementation in Urban Agriculture Systems: Notes from the Field. This is the first in a series of papers that would document our growth in knowledge from our on-going Micro-farm project in Mansfield, Ohio. *Abstract has been accepted to the 50th Urban Affairs Conference in Washington, D.C., held 2-4 April, 2020.*

Usher, Kareem, Hatsu, Irene, Remley, Daniel, Hanlon, Bernadette, Sweeney, Glennon, and Samadi, Karima. Using Participatory Photo Mapping (PPM) to Improve Food Access: Lessons Learned from West Chester Township in suburban Cincinnati, Ohio.

COMMENTARIES, MEDIA, REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- **Interviewed:** The Lantern Podcast – Food Insecurity in Minority Neighborhoods (Forthcoming)
- **Interviewed** about my re-conceptualisation of Access (23rd March, 2020): Dr. Emily English (Assistant Professor) – Department of Pediatrics, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.
- My work in Belize was highlighted in the monthly e-newsletter of the **Consulate of Belize in Florida** (February, 2020).
- **Interviewed** for online newspaper article. (July, 2017). How urban agriculture swept through Greater Cleveland. Cleveland.com. http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2017/07/urban_farms_proliferate_in_cle.html.

Usher, Kareem and Anandhi, Aavudai. (April, 2019). Green-space for Healthy Living and Stormwater Management: A Study Abroad and Challenge Approach. *Teaching Tips*. North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture.

Usher, Kareem M. and Reece, Jason. (April, 2017). The Uneven Access to Healthy Food in Franklin County, Ohio and its disparate Impacts on the Health of low-income African Americans. *Columbus African American News Journal*.

Belizean Media: Interviewed on morning show, ‘Open Your Eyes’ along with the Mayor of Belize City, Hon. Darryl Bradley and the Executive Director of the Belize Association of Planners, Ms. Carolyn Trench-Sandiford (2017). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BF045-2Cy58>.

Olinger, Jillian, Reece, Jason, & Usher, Kareem. (March, 2015). Anchoring Equitable Development: Anchor Institute-Led Models of Housing and Community Development to Strengthen Institutions and Communities. A Case Study Report prepared for the Jesse Ball DuPont Fund.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, PANELS AND SPEAKERSHIP

- **Invited Panelist:** ‘Good, Clean, and Fair: Slow Food for All?’ Spring 2020 Lecture Series. Hosted by the Ohio State University Anthropology Public Outreach Program and Slow Food Columbus, (22nd April, 2020).
- **Invited Panelist:** Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (The Ohio State University). Food Security Panel Discussion (24th January, 2020).
- **Invited Presenter:** World Food Day Flash Talk – Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (The Ohio State University), (17th October, 2019).
- **Research Presentation:** Mansfield Microfarm Project 2nd Annual Symposium, Mansfield, Ohio (15th November, 2019).
- **Invited Panelist:** Energy Food Water Nexus International Summit. Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, Florida (7th – 8th November, 2019).
- **Participant:** Emotions in Planning: Pedagogy and Curriculum. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Greenville, South Carolina (25th October, 2019).
- **Selected Participant:** National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) Data to Motivate Synthesis (DTMS) Workshop on research in the Food-Energy-Water (FEW) nexus, Annapolis, Maryland (11th – 13th February, 2019).
- **Session Discussant (*Who Governs Smart Cities?*):** City and Regional Planning Section 60th Anniversary Symposium – The Ohio State University: (28th March, 2019).

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- **Invited Panelist:** *Building Sustainable Communities Through Agriculture*. Kenyon College: (18th April, 2019).
- **Invited Speaker:** *Pre-conference Workshop – Ethics, Equity, and Justice in Food and Planning*. 58th Annual Association of the Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference: (October, 2018), Buffalo, New York.
- **Invited Lecturer:** Environmental Health Sciences Seminar Series. The Ohio State University, (10th September, 2018).
- **Presenter:** Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society, and the Association for the Study of Food and Society Annual Conference. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Madison, Wisconsin. (13th- 16th June, 2018).
- **Speaker:** Making Milpa: The Agroecology and Practice of Indigenous Agriculture. Ohio State Student Farm at Waterman Farm; The Ohio State University. Columbus, Ohio. (11th-12th May, 2018).
- **OSU-InFACT Representative:** Building Responsibility Equity And Dignity (B.R.E.A.D.) Organization Nehemiah Action Meeting, (7th May, 2018).
- **Invited Speaker:** Andrew College, (9th February, 2018), Cuthbert, Georgia
- **Presenter, Panelist, Discussant:** 57th Annual Association of the Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference: (October, 2017), Denver, Colorado
- **Presenter, Moderator, Organizer:** 7th Annual Caribbean Urban Forum: (17th – 19th May, 2017), Belize City, Belize
- **Moderator-Discussant:** 56th Annual Association of the Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference: (November, 2016), Portland, Oregon
- **Co-Presenter:** 76th Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology: (29th March – 2nd April, 2016), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- **Invited Panelist:** Social Justice Week organised by the City and Regional Planning Student Association
- **Invited Panelist:** Food, Justice and Sustainability Forum; February, 2016
- **Invited Panelist:** Black Lives Matter and the Food System Forum: (4th November, 2015), The Ohio State University.
- **Invited Speaker:** University of Louisville – Department of Urban and Public Affairs. (October, 2015).
- **Invited Panelist:** Food Desert Roundtable. 55th Annual Association of the Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference. Justice and the City: (re)Examining the Past to Create the Future. (21st October – 25th October, 2015). Houston, Texas.
- **Presenter:** 55th Annual Association of the Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference. Justice and the City: (re)Examining the Past to Create the Future. (21st October – 25th October, 2015). Houston, Texas.
- **Keynote Speaker:** 8th Annual Buy Local Food Seminar. (25th January, 2015), Georgetown, Ohio.
- **Presenter:** Association of the Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference: Big Ideas, Global Impacts. (30 October – 2 November, 2014). Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- **Panelist:** Together at the Table: Justice in the Food System. A community dialogue on World Food Day. (24 October, 2014). Columbus, Ohio.

- **Presenter/Panelist: 2012 Florida State University Fellows Forum – Journey to the Table: A Discussion of the Food System.** (30 March, 2012).
- **Co-Presenter: 2012 Building Creative Communities Conference: Caring for Mother Earth through the Art of Storytelling, Community Building and Social Change.** (2 – 5 February, 2012). Colquitt, Georgia.
- **Co-Presenter: International Sociological Association Research Committee 21 on Sociology of Urban and Regional Development: Urban Justice and Sustainability.** (24 – 27 August, 2007). University of British Columbia; Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- **Participant: Planning and the Black Community Division of the American Planning Association.** (8 – 11 August, 2007). Indiana University Northwest; Gary, Indiana.

TEACHING

The Ohio State University (Autumn 2015 to Present)

CRPLAN 2110: Creating Innovative Cities and Regions (Autumn, 2020)

CRPLAN 6350: Socially Just City (Autumn, 2020)

CRPLAN 2110: Creating Innovative Cities and Regions (Spring, 2020)

CRPLAN 5900: Food System Planning and the Economy (Spring, 2020)

CRPLAN 2110: Creating Innovative Cities and Regions (Autumn, 2019)

CRPLAN 6350: Socially Just City (Autumn, 2019)

CRPLAN 5880: Food as the Foundation for Sustainable Settlements (Spring, 2019)

CRPLAN 2110: Creating Innovative Cities and Regions (Spring, 2019)

CRPLAN 6350: Socially Just City (Autumn, 2018)

CRPLAN 2110: Creating Innovative Cities and Regions (Spring, 2018)

CRPLAN 6970: Plan Abroad – Belize Interdisciplinary Study Abroad Programme (Spring, 2018)

CRPLAN 2110: Creating Innovative Cities and Regions (Autumn, 2017)

CRPLAN 2110: Creating Innovative Cities and Regions (Spring, 2017)

CRPLAN 6970: Plan Abroad – Belize Planning Studio (Spring, 2017)

CRPLAN 2110: Creating Innovative Cities and Regions (Autumn, 2016)

CRPLAN 6350: Socially Just City (Autumn, 2016)

CRPLAN 2110: Creating Innovative Cities and Regions (Spring, 2016)

CRPLAN 3520: Planning Ethics (Spring, 2016)

CRPLAN 5798: Plan Abroad - Ghana Sustainable Change Program (Spring, 2016)

CRPLAN 2110: Creating Innovative Cities and Regions (Autumn, 2015)

CRPLAN/CIVILEN 5001: Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (Autumn, 2015)

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Member of the Belize Academic Forum – Embassy of Belize. Member of a consortium of Belizean academics living outside of Belize who serve in an advisory capacity to the Government of Belize.

On-going Projects

- **ONE Linden Cooperative:** Project Lead and Principal Investigator. Awarded \$12,400.00 through the Ben Stinner Endowment for Healthy Agroecosystems and Sustainable Communities. Awarded \$58,060.00 through Ohio State University's Connect and Collaborate Grant.
- **A Community-based Microfarm Aggregation Model for Transforming Agricultural Production and Enhancing Asset-based Economic Development in Post-Industrial Urban Areas:** Co-Principal Investigator (Principal Investigator: Dr. Kent Curtis). Secured \$962,600.00 through the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research.

Service to University

- Member: The Ohio State University – Wexner Medical Center Health Equity Steering Committee
- Founding Member: *Supporting Pedagogy Actively* (SPA) group: Group of faculty from diverse disciplines who meet to discuss and give support on teaching.
- Participant: FIT Leaders pilot study on Black male faculty mentorship and leadership
- Faculty Mentor: Second-Year Transformative Experience Program (STEP) – The Ohio State University
- Member: University Panel on Food Sustainability – The Ohio State University
- Associate Faculty: Initiative for Food and Agricultural Transformation (InFACT) – The Ohio State University
- Member: The STEAM Factory at The Ohio State University
- Faculty Mentor: The Ohio State University Post Doctoral Association – Professional Development Committee

Service to Unit

- Committee Member: City and Regional Planning Undergraduate Committee
- Committee Member: Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture (at OSU) Library Committee
- Committee Member: Awards Committee - City and Regional Planning Section, Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture
- Director: Belize Interdisciplinary Study Abroad Programme
- Co-coordinator: Ghana Sustainable Change Program: 11th – 21st March, 2016

Service to Professional Societies

- Co-Chair of Project Advisory Board: **Thomas A. Lyson Center for Civic Agriculture and Food Systems. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development.***
- Member: **Planners of Color Interest Group (POCIG)** through the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)
- Peer Reviewer: *Planning Practice and Research* (1 paper); *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* (19 papers); *Ecological Modelling* (1 paper); *Environmental Research* (1 paper)
- Member: **Inter-Institutional Network for Food, Agriculture and Sustainability (INFAS)**
- External Reviewer: InTeGrate (Interdisciplinary Teaching of Geoscience for a Sustainable Future) curriculum – *Food as the Foundation for Healthy Communities*
- Member: Planners' Network (PN)
- Member: Urban Affairs Association (UAA)
- Member: The Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society (AFHVS)
- Member: Belize Association of Planners (BAP)
- Member: American Planning Association (APA)

Service to Community

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- Volunteer: The Ohio State University, Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Day of Service – 18th January, 2016
- Vice Chair: Franklin County Local Food Policy Council
- Co-Organizer: *Interdisciplinary Symposium-Bridging the Gap between Theory and Practice, between Academy and Community – Act 1: Social Justice*. Winners of first Florida State University Graduate School
- Member: Tallahassee Food Network, Tallahassee, Florida (2010-Present).
- Member: Community Farm Alliance, Louisville, Kentucky (2005-Present).
- Member of the Board of Directors: Louisville Central Development Corporation, Inc. (2008-2010).
- Member of the Board of Directors: Rivercity Housing Corporation (2010).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant

Community Farm Alliance (2005)

Researcher and Community Organiser to establish farmers' markets in urban neighbourhoods identified as 'food deserts'.

Member

Champions for West Louisville Economic Development (2005- 2010)

Organised place-making workshop for addressing economic development issues in West Louisville's struggling neighbourhoods.

LANGUAGES

- Belize Kriol: Fluent speaking, comprehension and writing.
- English: Fluent speaking, comprehension and writing.
- Spanish: Basic speaking, comprehension and writing.

SKILLS

- Mixed-Methods research design.
- Verbal and written communication.
- IBM SPSS Statistics 20, ArcGIS-ArcMap 10, MAXQDA 11, GeoLytics Data Package.
- Cross-cultural competency.