

MATTHEW J. ZINSLI

Auburn University | Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2025- Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Auburn University
- 2024-25 Visiting Researcher, The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
- 2022-23 Visiting Scientist, Charles Darwin Foundation
- 2022-23 Visiting Researcher, Universidad San Francisco de Quito

EDUCATION

- 2025 University of Wisconsin–Madison, PhD (Sociology & Development Studies)
- 2020 University of Wisconsin–Madison, MS (Sociology)
- 2013 University of Illinois Springfield, MA (Environmental Studies), with honors
- 2005 University of Saint Thomas, BA (English), *magna cum laude*

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2023 **Zinsli, Matthew J.** Authorizing the ‘taste of place’ for Galápagos Islands coffee: Scientific knowledge, development politics, and power in geographical indication implementation. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 40(2), 581-597.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-022-10364-9>

PEER-REVIEWED EXTENSION REPORTS

- 2026 **Zinsli, Matthew J.**, Kelli J. Russell, and Mykel R. Taylor. *Alabama in focus: Labor trends snapshot, 2002-2024*. Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. ANR-3198. <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/farm-management/alabama-in-focus-labor-trends-snapshot-2002-2024/>
- 2025 **Zinsli, Matthew J.**, Kelli J. Russell, and Mykel R. Taylor. *Alabama in focus: Population trends snapshot 2005-2024*. Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. ANR-3162. <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/farm-management/alabama-in-focus-population-trends-snapshot-2005-2024/>

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Under review **Zinsli, Matthew J.** “Multi-sited ethnography and development: Origins, contributions, concerns, and new directions.” *Sociology of development handbook*. Edited by Enrique S. Pumar and Heidi Rademacher. Under contract at De Gruyter Press.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Forthcoming **Zinsli, Matthew J.** Review of *Decolonizing medicine: Indigenous politics and the practice of care in Bolivia* by Gabriela Elisa Morales (Stanford University Press, 2025), *Science & Technology Studies*.
- 2022 **Zinsli, Matthew J.** Review of *Cultivating knowledge: Biotechnology, sustainability, and the human cost of cotton capitalism in India* by Andrew Flachs (University of Arizona Press, 2019), *Rural Sociology*, 87(1), 332-335.
- 2020 **Zinsli, Matthew J.** Review of *On the backs of tortoises: Darwin, Galápagos, and the fate of an evolutionary Eden* by Elizabeth Hennessy (Yale University Press, 2019), *Island Studies Journal*, 15(1), 274-276.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2024 Crowe Dissertation Research Award, Department of Community and Environmental Sociology, UW–Madison, \$4,955
- 2022 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, \$57,408
- 2021 Crowe Pre-Dissertation Research Award, Department of Community and Environmental Sociology, UW–Madison, \$3,000
- 2021 Summer Fieldwork Award, Institute for Regional and International Studies, UW–Madison, \$3,000
- 2019 Tinker-Nave Short-term Field Research Grant, Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies, UW–Madison, \$2,500
- 2019 Student Research Grant, Graduate School, UW–Madison, \$1,500
- 2018 Mellon Foundation Area and International Studies Research Grant, \$5,000

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 Student Paper Award, Rural Sociological Society, Sociology of Agriculture and Food Research and Interest Group (SAFRIG)
- 2020 Henry Steenbock Scholarship, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, UW–Madison
- 2018 Ruth and Carl Miller Academic Merit Award, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, UW–Madison
- 2016 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education
- 2015 University Fellowship, UW–Madison

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

- 2026 “Resolving the ‘jobs versus the environment’ dilemma in natural resource sectors: How Alabama’s forest products industry aligns extraction, livelihoods, and ecosystems.” **Matthew J. Zinsli**, Kelli J. Russell, Mykel R. Taylor, Garrett Antonio Martinez, Amelia Pugh, and Madison Harris. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Rural Sociological Association, February 2026, Louisville, Kentucky.
- 2025 “Industry perspective and rural livelihoods: The forest products industry, the rural workforce, and rural communities in Alabama.” **Matthew J. Zinsli**, Kelli J. Russell, Mykel R. Taylor, Garrett Antonio Martinez, and Amelia Pugh. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, July 2025, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 2025 “Grounding coffee value in territory: Localized agrifood systems and the implementation of geographical indication in the global South.” **Matthew J. Zinsli** and Rafael Villota. Paper presented at the biennial congress of the European Society for Rural Sociology, July 2025, Riga, Latvia.
- 2025 “Industry perspective and rural livelihoods: The forest products industry, the rural workforce, and rural communities in Alabama.” **Matthew J. Zinsli**, Kelli J. Russell, Mykel R. Taylor, Garrett Antonio Martinez, and Amelia Pugh. Paper presented at the biennial congress of the European Society for Rural Sociology, July 2025, Riga, Latvia.
- 2025 “Grounding coffee value in territory: Localized agrifood systems and the implementation of geographical indication in the global South.” **Matthew J. Zinsli** and Rafael Villota. Paper presented at the biennial conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons, June 2025, Amherst, Massachusetts.
- 2024 “A taste for terroir: The science and politics of the EU’s global geographical indication development agenda.” **Matthew J. Zinsli**. Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Sociology of Development conference, October 2024, Washington, DC.
- 2024 “Brewing sustainability: The politics of knowledge in Galápagos Islands coffee qualification and geographical indication development.” **Matthew J. Zinsli** and Samer Alatout. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2024, Montréal, Canada.
- 2024 “Brewing sustainability: The politics of knowledge in Galápagos Islands coffee qualification and geographical indication development.” **Matthew J. Zinsli** and Samer Alatout. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, July 2024, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 2024 “Shifting discourses of international geographical indication implementation: From legal-rational to political-cultural models of development in the Global

- South.” **Matthew J. Zinsli** and Sarah Bowen. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, July 2024, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 2024 “Brewing sustainability: The politics of knowledge in Galápagos Islands coffee qualification and geographical indication development.” **Matthew J. Zinsli** and Samer Alatout. Paper presented at the quadrennial joint meeting of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology and the Society for Social Studies of Science, July 2024, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- 2023 “How do the French know ‘the taste of place’?: Regulatory science, standard-setting, and global authority in origin food labeling.” **Matthew J. Zinsli**. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science, November 2023, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- 2023 “National food heritage policy and transnational authority: reproducing the hegemony of origin food schemes through expert discourses.” **Matthew J. Zinsli**. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, July 2023, Burlington, Vermont.
- 2023 “National food heritage policy and transnational authority: reproducing the hegemony of origin food schemes through expert discourses.” **Matthew J. Zinsli**. Paper presented biennial congress of the European Society for Rural Sociology, July 2023, Rennes, France.
- 2022 “Authorizing the ‘taste of place’ for Galápagos Islands coffee: Scientific knowledge, development politics, and power in geographical indication implementation.” **Matthew J. Zinsli**. Paper presented at the Worldwide Perspectives on Geographical Indications conference, July 2022, Montpellier, France.
- 2022 “Authorizing the ‘taste of place’ for Galápagos Islands coffee: Scientific knowledge, development politics, and power in geographical indication implementation.” **Matthew J. Zinsli**. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, May 2022, virtual.
- 2019 “Authorizing the ‘taste of place’ for Galápagos Islands coffee: Scientific knowledge, development politics, and power in geographical indication implementation.” **Matthew J. Zinsli**. Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Sociology of Development conference, October 2019, Notre Dame, Indiana.
- Invited*
- 2025 “Retos en el Sistema alimentario de Honduras y barreras para su transformación” (“Challenges in Honduras’s food system and barriers to its transformation”), workshop presented virtually with Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT.
- 2025 “Building a county profile for strategic planning,” workshop presented at Northwest and West Region meetings of County Executive Directors of Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.

PEER REVIEWER

Agriculture and Human Values (2022-present)

Food, Culture & Society (2024-present)

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Master's Thesis Committee

Garrett Antonio Martinez (MA, Rural Sociology, Auburn University, expected 2026)

COURSES TAUGHT

CES 248. Environment, Natural Resources, and Society. Instructor, UW–Madison

SOC 357. Methods of Sociological Inquiry. Teaching assistant, UW–Madison

SOC 360. Statistics for Sociologists I. Teaching assistant, UW–Madison

SERVICE

Profession

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| 2025- | Membership Committee, Rural Sociological Society |
| 2024 | Organizing Committee, American Sociological Association Sociology of Development Conference, Washington, DC |
| 2024 | ASA Sociology of Development Section Book Award Committee |
| 2024 | Discussant, ASA Sociology of Development Section book talk |
| 2024 | Session organizer (with Molly Clark-Barol), “Social theory, sociological praxis, and the struggle for epistemic justice in contemporary policymaking,” quadrennial joint meeting of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology and the Society for Social Studies of Science, Amsterdam, Netherlands |
| 2022 | Organizing Committee, Chicago Ethnography Conference, Madison, Wisconsin |
| 2019-21 | Listserv manager, Rural Sociological Society |

University and Department

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| 2025 | Judge, Three-Minute Thesis Competition, Auburn University |
| 2025 | Judge, College of Agriculture Research Poster Awards, Auburn University |
| 2025-26 | Judge, Research Symposium, Auburn University |
| 2020-21 | Department of Sociology Graduate Program Committee, UW–Madison |
| 2020 | Invited panelist, New Graduate Student Welcome, UW–Madison |
| 2019-21 | Chair, Sociology Graduate Student Association Professional Development Committee |
| 2017-18 | Moderator, Undergraduate Research Symposium, UW–Madison |

2016-17 Student Member, University Academic Planning Council, UW–Madison

AFFILIATIONS

Auburn University Rural Partnership Institute, Rural Sociological Society, European Society for Rural Sociology, Southern Rural Sociological Association, American Sociological Association

LANGUAGES

Spanish (professional fluency)

French (professional fluency)