

Valerie Imbruce

Bennington College
1 College Drive
Bennington, Vermont 05201
Ph. 802.440.4891
vimbruce@bennington.edu
<http://webfac.bennington.edu/vimbruce/>

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 2006 Graduate Center of the City University of New York
Joint Program with Graduate Studies at the New York Botanical Garden
Ph.D., Plant Sciences, with a focus on Economic Botany
Dissertation Title: *Demand for Diversity: The Global Expansion of Chinatown's Food System*
Dissertation Supervisor: Dr. Christine Padoch
- B.A. 1999 Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY
B.A., Environmental Science
Senior Thesis: *Trailside Vascular Flora of Bellavista Cloud Forest Preserve, Ecuador*

AWARDS and HONORS

- 2013-2015 National Science Foundation, \$199,477, Primary Investigator "*The Future of A New England Mill Town,*" Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science, Technology, Math and Engineering
- 2012-13 Bennington College Faculty Grant, \$2400 per year
- 2012 New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, \$2000 for *Bennington Farm to Plate Council*
- 2011 Faculty Scholar, Vermont Law School
- 2008 United States President's Volunteer Service Award
- 2008 Grant from Citizen's Committee for New York City for *Central Harlem Community Supported Agriculture*
- 2007 Grant from the New York Community Trust for *Central Harlem Community Supported Agriculture*
- 2004-2006 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant in Geography
- 2003-2006 National Science Foundation GK-12 Teaching Fellowship, Center for the Advanced Study of Education at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York
- 2004-2005 Fellowship, Center for Place, Politics and Culture at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York
- 2004 Torrey Botanical Society Symposium Award
- 2003 Asian Economic Botany Award, New York Botanical Garden
- 2001-2002 Science Fellowship, Graduate Center of the City University of New York

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- 2012-present Faculty Member, Environmental Studies, Bennington College, Vermont
- Teach the natural and social science based courses listed below, plus Ethnobotany and Bennington Farm to Plate: A Research Methods Course
 - 5 courses per year teaching load, plus student advising, thesis oversight, co-Chair of Sustainability Committee and Faculty Advisor to the Bennington Sustainable Food Group and the Purple Carrot Student Farm

- 2009 – 2012 Director of Environmental Studies and Faculty Member, Bennington College, Vermont
- Administered a \$300K grant from the Mellon Foundation to develop a more robust environmental studies program, including course development, seminars, student internships and co-curricula activities, and research
 - Developed and taught the courses: Global Problems, Local Solutions (introduction to environmental studies), The Agrarian Myth, City and Hinterland, Environmental Studies Colloquium (rotating topics), Agroecology
- 2008-2009 Visiting Professor of Biology, Bennington College, Vermont
- Designed and taught introductory and advanced undergraduate courses: Forest Ecology, Population, Food and Farms, Agroecology, and Environment and Society
- 2007-2008 Program Manager, College Now, Office of Academic Affairs, City University of New York
- Managed an 800 student science research competition, the New York City Science and Engineering Fair, to which students apply, submit research papers and projects, are judged and awarded prizes
 - Developed science curriculum and science programming for undergraduate and pre-college students
- 2007 Consultant, TechnoServe, Cajamarca, Peru
- Researched native fruits of economic potential and developed recommendations to increase the technical capacity and market opportunities of Andean farmers
 - Capacity building and information dissemination
- 2003-2007 Fellow, Center for the Advanced Study of Education at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York
- Co-designed, developed and taught a 45 hour course for pre-college students on forest ecology
 - Development of educational curricula including protocols for labs, research papers, and field trips for Advanced Placement biology courses in Bronx high schools
 - Coordinated six fellows in biology, providing leadership for new fellows and teachers
 - Built collaborations between CUNY and local science and education organizations
 - The initial one-year fellowship was renewed for four additional years
- 2002-2003 Research Assistant, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, NYC
- Completed literature reviews and provided project support for a new initiative between UNESCO and Columbia University to promote sustainable development in urban areas
 - Prepared and organized conferences
 - Presented original research at conference
 - Co-wrote a project proposal to the National Science Foundation
- 2002 Intern, International Plant Genetics Resources Institute, Rome, Italy (now called Bioversity International)
- Conducted archival research and developed a reference database for a new project entitled *Pest Management in Traditional Agroecosystems: The Benefits and Hazards of Genetic Diversity*
 - Working in a team to prepare a proposal to the Global Environment Facility for which a grant of \$350,000 awarded
 - Co-authored a book chapter

ADDITIONAL TEACHING

- 2007 Adjunct Professor, Bronx Community College
- 2007 Adjunct Professor, Lehman College
- 2007 Adjunct Professor, Baruch College

- 2006 Caffeine and the Plant Kingdom, New York Botanical Garden Continuing Education
 2004-2005 Ethnic Markets of Little Italy in the Bronx, New York Botanical Garden Continuing Education
 2003 NSF GK-12 Teaching Fellow, Advanced Placement Biology, Clinton High School, Bronx, NY

EDITING and ORGANIZING

- 2011 Fall Term Bennington College Environmental Studies Colloquium, *Art and the Environment*
- 2011 Spring Term Bennington College Environmental Studies Colloquium, *Building a Sustainable Future*
- 2010 Fall Term Bennington College Environmental Studies Colloquium, *Seeking Change: Food, farm and society.*
- 2010 Spring Term Bennington College Environmental Studies Colloquium, *Burning Trees for Energy: Wood biomass and forest transitions in New England*
- 2008 Panel Organizer, “Meet the Scientists,” an educational panel for high school participants at the New York City Science and Engineering Fair, February 2, 2008
- 2007 Guest Editor, special issue of the *Journal of Agriculture and Human Values* entitled “Multi-scale Transformations of Agriculture and the Environment.”
- 2005 Moderator, New York Botanical Garden Graduate Studies Colloquium
- 2004 Panel Organizer, “Markets, Migration and Changing Systems of Plant Use” at the 9th Congress of the International Society of Economic Botany in Canterbury, England June 13-17, 2004
- 2003 Editorial Assistant, *Borneo in Transition: People, Forests, Conservation, and Development*, C. Padoch and N. Peluso (eds.)

PUBLICATIONS

- Imbruce, V. (in preparation – passed external review). *Chinatown’s Alternative Food Network*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Imbruce, V., B. Tang, H. Alongi, G. Fredericks, K. Davis, D. Whitman, V. Gikas, S. Milliman and N. Liu (paper in preparation). Food Access in a Southern Vermont Food Desert, working draft available at: <http://webfac.bennington.edu/vimbruce/publications/>
- Fredericks, G., C. Taylor, Y. Dolov, S. Beal and V. Imbruce (2012). *Connecting the Dots in Bennington’s Food System*, prepared for Bennington Farm to Plate Council and Bennington County Regional Commission, can be downloaded at: <http://webfac.bennington.edu/vimbruce/publications/>
- Imbruce, V. (2011). From the Bottom-up: The global expansion of Chinese vegetable trade for New York City markets in P. Williams-Forsen and C. Counihan (eds.) *Taking Food Public: Redefining Foodways in a Changing World*. NY: Routledge.
- Imbruce, V. (2010). To Market! To Market! How Infrastructure Hampers Small Farmers and Healthy Food. *Science Progress*, online at <http://scienceprogress.org/2010/01/to-market-to-market/>
- Imbruce, V. (2009). Let’s Decentralize Wholesale, Not Just Direct Food Sales. *Civil Eats*, online at <http://civileats.com/2009/09/04/let%E2%80%99s-decentralize-wholesale/>
- Imbruce, V. (2008). The Production Relations of Contract Farming in Honduras. *Geojournal* 73: 67-82.

Imbruce, V. (2007) Green Acres. *The New Yorker* (letter to the editor) Issue of October 1, 2007.

Imbruce, V. (2007). From the guest editor. Multi-scale transformations of agriculture and the environment. *Agriculture and Human Values* 24(1): 1-7.

Imbruce, V. (2007). Bringing Southeast Asia to the Southeastern United States: New forms of alternative agriculture in Homestead, Florida. *Agriculture and Human Values* 24(1): 41-59.

Jarvis, D.I., A.H.D. Brown, V. Imbruce, J. Ochoa, M. Sadiki, E. Karamura, P. Trutmann and M.R. Finckh (2007). "Managing Crop Disease in Traditional Agroecosystems: The benefits and hazards of genetic diversity." in D. Jarvis, C. Padoch and D. Cooper (eds.), *Managing Biodiversity in Agricultural Ecosystems*, IPGRI and Columbia University Press.

Imbruce, V. (2006). "From the Bottom-up: The global expansion of Chinese vegetable trade for New York City markets" in R. Wilk (ed.) *Fast Food/Slow Food: The Economic Anthropology of the Global Food System*, pp. 163-179. Berkeley, CA: Altamira

Alfsen-Norodom, Christine; Boehme, Susan E.; Clemants, Steven; Correy, Melody; Imbruce, Valerie; Lane, Benjamin; Balstad Miller, Roberta; Padoch, Christine; Panero, Marta; Peters, Charles; Rosenzweig, Cynthia; Solecki, William and Daniel Walsh (2004). "Managing the Megacity for Global Sustainability: The New York Metropolitan Region as an Urban Biosphere Reserve." *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 1023: 125-141.

Imbruce, V. (2003). "Book review of *Coming Home to Eat: the Politics and Pleasures of Local Foods* by Gary Nabhan." *Economic Botany* 57(2): 284-285.

Imbruce, V. (2002). "Book review of *From the Ground Up: Rethinking Industrial Agriculture* by Helena Norberg-Hodge, Peter Goering, and John Page." *Culture and Agriculture* 24(2): 67-68.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Presentation, June 2013, *The Role of Ethnicity in Alternative Food Markets*, Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society, East Lansing, MI.

Invited Workshop Presentation, April 2013, *Connecting the Dot's in Bennington's Food System*, Bennington Community Forum, Bennington, Vermont.

Invited Seminar Presentation, March 2013, Chinatown's Alternative Food Network, Science Workshop, Bennington College.

Presentation, June 2012, *Conducting a Food System Inventory in Bennington, VT*, Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society, NY, NY.

Presentation, February 2012, *Local Agriculture: Urban-Rural Integration or Contestation?* Association of American Geographers, NY, NY.

Invited Presentation, March 2011, *Sustaining Agriculture in Washington County, NY*, Hubbard Hall Curiosity Forum, Cambridge, NY.

Presentation, June 2010, *Endogenous Growth: Building an environmental studies program from within*, Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Portland, OR.

Presentation, June 2010, *Food Systems Curricula for the Liberal Arts: Ideology, Critical Inquiry and Reflexive Praxis*, Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Portland, OR.

Invited presentation, July 2010, *Biomass and the Energy Future of Bennington*, Catamount Rotary Club, Bennington, VT.

Invited presentation, The New School, NY, NY, February 2009, *The Agroecology of Chinatown' Food System*

Paper with Selena Ahmed, Louis Putzel, and Angela Steward, Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany, *Paying it Forward: Investing in Economy Botany Education for Urban Youth*, June 2, 2008

Invited presentation, Rutgers's Cooperative Extension, NJ Vegetable Meeting, Atlantic City, NJ January 15-17, 2008, *Central Harlem Community Supported Agriculture*

Invited Seminar, Universidad Nacional de Cajamarca, Peru, May 22, 2007, *Frutas Nativas del Perú, Agrobiodiversidad, Desarrollo y Conservación (Native Fruits of Peru: Agrobiodiversity, Development and Conservation)*

Invited Paper, American Association of Geographers, San Francisco April 17-21, 2007, *Demand for Diversity: The Global Expansion of Chinatown's Food System*

Paper, American Association of Geographers, Chicago March 7-11, 2006, *Bringing Southeast Asia to the Southeastern United States: Commercial Homegardens in Homestead, Florida*

Paper, Ninth Congress of the International Society of Economic Botany in Canterbury, England June 13-17, 2004, *Expanding Networks of Asian Fruit and Vegetable Production in the Americas*

Invited Paper, 23rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Anthropology, Slow Food/Fast Food, Atlanta GA, April 22-24, 2004, *Alternative Practices in Asian-American Agriculture*

Invited Paper, Annual Meeting of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society, Austin, TX, June 2003, *Demand for Diversity: Constituting Alternate Pathways in Global Markets*

Poster, Urban Biosphere Workshop, Columbia University, NY, November 2002, *Production and Consumption of Agrobiodiversity in an Urban Biosphere*

Paper with Christine Padoch, 43rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Economic Botany, New York Botanical Garden, June 2002, *Changing Urban Consumption Patterns and their Effects on Production Landscapes*

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish, excellent writing, reading, and speaking

Italian and French, good reading comprehension and basic speaking ability

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2013-present	Vermont Farm to Plate Initiative Research Group
2009-present	Co-Chair, Bennington College Sustainability Committee
2010-present	Editorial Committee, <i>Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development</i>
2010-present	Reviewer, <i>Journal of Agriculture and Human Values</i>
2009-2012	Curriculum Planning Committee, Bennington College
2008-2009	Judge, Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, Atlanta, GA and New York City
2002-2006	Tour Guide, New York Botanical Garden
2005	Presentation to the board members of the New York Botanical Garden
2002-2003	Biology Representative to the Doctoral Student Union, City University of New York
2001-2003	Urban Biosphere Group, UNESCO/Columbia University

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2010-present	Bennington Farm to Plate Council
2005-2008	Core group member, Central Harlem Community Supported Agriculture
2005	Co-Founder, <i>Fresh Food, Fresh Start</i> at PS 180 in Harlem
2003	Presentation on the World of Plant Science to the Johns Hopkins Program for Talented Youth
2003	Continuing Education, New York Botanical Garden
1996-1998	Co-Coordinator, Binghamton University Food Co-op

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association of American Geographers
Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society
Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
Northeast Environmental Studies
Vermont Campus Sustainability Network