

REBECCA A. HARRISON

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EDUCATION

Cornell University — Ithaca, NY Aug. 2016 – Dec. 2022 (Expected)
Ph.D. Candidate, Science & Technology Studies; M.A. 2019
Dissertation title: “*Safe sex for insects*” and other scientist stories: *Land-grants, responsibilities, and agricultural (bio)technologies*

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute — Troy, NY Aug. 2014 – May 2016
Graduate-level coursework, Science & Technology Studies
Rensselaer Graduate Fellowship

Cornell University — Ithaca, NY Fall 2010 – May 2014
B.S., Animal Science (Minors: Science & Technology Studies; English)

TEACHING

Ethics & The Environment Spring 2018 and Spring 2020
Biology & Society lecture course — Cornell University
Teaching Assistant

- Assisted lead faculty instructor in lecture design, writing assignment prompts, and grading.
- Independently drafted lesson plans for leading small-group discussion sections weekly; activities focused on simultaneously asking students to close-read and engage texts on environmental ethics.
- Played an important role in bringing this face-to-face lecture course into an online learning environment given pandemic conditions in the middle of the Spring 2020 semester; while not a seamless transition, it was an opportunity to reflectively build more empathetic pedagogy, experiment with teaching technologies and become a better advocate for students.
- Worked with teaching team to identify most promising student final projects related to climate change, coronavirus, and environmental justice; worked with students to prepare their work for submission as a Special Issue in the Fall 2020 *Minding Nature* journal.

Science & Society Topics: Stories of (Agri)Culture Fall 2017 and Fall 2019
First-year Writing Seminar – Cornell University
Instructor of Record

- Independently designed first-year writing seminar for the Department of Science & Technology Studies, which was taught to 17 students in the Fall of 2017 and 17 students in the Fall of 2019.
- Lead students through extensive reading and writing on issues in the mutual shaping of science and society in agriculture, drawing extensively on campus resources and archives.

Science & Society Topics: Food-Flix & Chill

Spring 2019 *and* Fall 2021

First-year Writing Seminar – Cornell University

Instructor of Record

- Independently designed first-year writing seminar, which was taught to 16 students in the Spring of 2019 and 17 students in Fall 2021.
- Taught second iteration of this course remotely on Zoom.
- Led students through extensive reading and writing on issues in the mutual shaping of science and society in agriculture, drawing extensively on campus resources and film analysis.

Science & Politics of the GMO

Fall 2015 *through* Spring 2017

edX Massive Open Online Course — Cornell University

Teaching Assistant

- Designed course curriculum for Cornell University's (Sept. 2016) EdX MOOC on the science and politics of genetically modified organisms.
- Developed written, information graphic, video, and interview content on topics ranging from fundamentals of plant breeding to biopiracy and the limitations of science.
- Cornell University Center for Teaching Excellence, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Practitioner Program 2016-2017

West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement, University of Ghana, Legon

January 2016

Lecturer, Advanced training module on "Scientific Communication"

- Developed weeklong scientific writing training curriculum for plant biology Ph.D. students as part of communication specialist role in International Programs, Cornell University.
- Delivered in collaboration with library resources module in January 2016 workshop.

Arizona State University Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcomes

Summer 2015

Teaching Assistant, Science Outside the Lab

- Served as teaching assistant for the Policy, Science, Technology, and Society Scholars summer (POSTSS) Program, held in Washington, D.C. and led by Arizona State University.
- Assisted faculty by creating an informal learning environment to increase the participation of underrepresented minority undergraduate students in STS and Policy Studies.

Guest Lectures

PLSCI 3940: Skills for Public Engagement — Cornell University, Springs 2016-2020

Social media use in public engagement in controversial science communication environments

BSOC 2061: Ethics & the Environment — Cornell University, Spring 2018

Ecological restoration in 2018

PLBIO 3430: Molecular Bio & Genetic Engineering of Plants — Cornell University, Spring 2016

Social Implications: Why is there a GMO debate?

PUBLICATIONS

Anthony, R., Bauchspies, W., Blue, G., Das, A., **Harrison, R.**, Henke, C., Kendig, C., Kuzma, J., Lipschitz, F., Jin, S., Richter, K., Ruelle, M., Selfa, T., Silberg, T., Takahashi, B. Thompson, P. (2022). “The need for more inclusive deliberation on ethics and governance in food biotechnology,” [Under review] *Nature Biotechnology*.

Pritchard, S., **Harrison, R.**, Domingues, A. (2020). Introduction: Climate change, coronavirus, and environmental justice. *Minding Nature*, 13(3), 13-17.

Pritchard, S., **Harrison, R.**, Domingues, A. Eds. (2020). Climate Change, coronavirus, and environmental justice: A collection of undergraduate creative projects. *Minding Nature*, 13(3), 18-53.

Harrison, R., Kinchy, A., Rabinow, L. (2017). “GE Food: A changing political economy,” in *The Routledge Handbook of the Political Economy of Science*. Routledge.

PRESENTATIONS

Harrison, R. and B.V. Lewenstein, “Visions of digital biology.” Center for Research on Programmable Plant Systems Visions Seminar. Cornell University. February 21, 2022.

Harrison, R., “Cultivating space and propagating questions: Reimagining the interview as a site of science studies intervention.” Society for the Social Studies of Science Conference. Toronto, Canada. October 7, 2021.

Harrison, R., “Improving the social impact of digital agriculture by understanding and aiding the land-grant scientist.” Cornell Institute for Digital Agriculture Workshop. Ithaca, NY. October 12, 2021.

Harrison, R. “When teaching the ‘Science & Politics of the GMO’ MOOC is itself political” Poster presentation at the Teaching as Research National Conference hosted at Cornell University. Ithaca, NY. (June 2017).

Harrison, R. “Standing up for science: Making & erasing boundaries between research, science communication, and advocacy.” Presented in satisfaction of part of Second Year Project during the Cornell Science & Technology Studies Science Studies Reading Group. Ithaca, NY (April 2017).

Harrison, R. “‘Standing up for science’: The blurring lines between biotechnology research, science communication, and advocacy.” Presented at the annual meeting of The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC). Minneapolis, Minnesota (Aug. 2016).

Delborne, J. and **Harrison, R.** “Boasting chestnuts: GM trees, responsible Innovation, & anticipatory governance.” Presented by Delborne at the meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science. Denver, Colorado (Nov. 2015).

Harrison, R. “The American Chestnut: Engineering a new conceptualization of biotechnology governance.” Presented at the Atlanta Conference on Science and Innovation Policy. Atlanta, Georgia (Sept. 2015).

Harrison, R. “The American Chestnut: A case study.” Presented at the National Academy of Sciences Public Interfaces of the Life Sciences Roundtable workshop, “When Science and Citizens Connect: Public Engagement on GMOs,” Washington, D.C. (Jan. 2015).

GRANTS

Cornell Institute for Digital Agriculture, Research Innovation Fund Summer Grant — 2021

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant — 2021

Qualitative & Interpretive Research Institute, Center for Social Sciences (Cornell) — 2020

Timothy Murray Graduate Travel Grant, Society for the Humanities (Cornell) — 2020

National Science Foundation Science & Technology Studies Program Grant, “Restoring biotechnology’s moral fiber? GM chestnut trees, responsible innovation, and environmental justice,” with PI Jason Delborne (North Carolina State University). Awarded in 2016.

AWARDS

The Teaching Portfolio Award for Graduate Student Instructors of First-Year Writing Seminars, Cornell University Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines (2021)

Cornell Department of Science & Technology Studies’ Abraham Zito Boczkowski Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student (2021)

Cornell Graduate Diversity and Inclusion Award, Special Recognition for COVID-19 Reopening Committee Advocacy (2020)

Knight Institute Information Literacy Assignment Sequence Prize, Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines. “Science, Society, and Special Collections: Stories of agriculture and archives.” Awarded in January 2020 for work completed in Fall 2019 First-year writing seminar.

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship Program — Honorable Mention (2016)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (selected)

Center for Research on Programmable Plant Systems

May 2021-present

Research Assistant — Cornell University

- Assist in preliminary work for the “Social and Ethical Engagement with Digital Biology” (SEED) group.
- Use social science tools such as participant observation, focus groups, interviews, and surveys to identify opinions about digital biology held by different groups, tracking changes in those opinions over time.
- Assess the effect of public engagement on CROPPS visions to test the hypothesis that public engagement (and reflexive engagement of scientists, in particular) leads to more productive development of research projects and outcomes.
- Hosted and mentored Boyce Thompson Institute-CROPPS NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) student.
 - REU student’s project, *Deconstructing and visualizing barriers: Comparing social engagement in science to intercellular communication in tomato plants*, received an award for “best poster” among her twenty-five plant biology REU peers.
 - This project served as a pilot study for Harrison’s post-doctoral research project.

Cornell University, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

2014-2016

Communications Specialist, International Programs — *Alliance for Science*

- Engaged with stakeholders in the global agricultural biotechnology community (scientists, journalists, policymakers, farmers) and the “public” via daily social media updates; use social media analytics tools to quantitatively track engagement and impact.
- Generated original content for promoting website and communications training initiatives.
- Led training workshops on use of digital communications tools in science communication.
- Represented organization at professional meetings, ranging from annual conferences of the American Society of Plant Biologists and the American Association for the Advancement of Science to the World Federation of Science Journalists

The White House, Office of Science & Technology Policy

Spring 2013

Intern

- Compiled evidence for, assembled, and edited policy memos.
- Designed hands-on STEM-related projects to be incorporated into elementary classroom curricula nationwide.
- Participated in STEM meetings held in OSTP, as well as across government and industry.
- Found particular interest in the activities surrounding oversight and regulation of new and emerging technologies.

Cornell University PRO-Dairy

2011-2012

Research Assistant

- Assisted on a variety of projects, ranging from dairy cow comfort, manure management cost analysis, and anaerobic/biogas digestion feasibility studies.

- Responsibilities included: Data input; literature reviews; spreadsheet design and implementation; on-farm data collection and analysis.

Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Summer 2011

Forage Quality and Feed Management on Dairies, Intern

- Worked with a variety of dairy farm initiatives to help promote and improve forage quality and feed management nutrition practices.
- Performed forage management assessment and worked with Cornell University faculty to interpret data and develop recommendations for participating farms in the two-county area. Studied recent literatures on forage quality and feed management and its impacts on a farm's efficiency, profitability, and environmental footprint.
- Data collection included assessment of forage harvests, storage practices, and forage sampling for quality analysis. Collected information was used to (1) provide each farm with assessments of their forage management practices compared to recognized industry benchmarks; (2) enhance existing datasets to better understand how overall farm management factors affect forage quality; (3) to develop criteria for a forage judging system to be used in an educational forage quality competition in Northern New York.
- Volunteered on a calf feeding study on engineering group feeding systems to decrease labor costs and increase efficiency of dairy calf production. Compared calves reared in traditional, individual pens versus those reared in groups, on three different farms.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & SERVICE

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly:

- Member, University Hearing & Review Board (2020-2021)
- Graduate student representative, Cornell University's Fall 2020 COVID-19 Reopening Committee: Committee on Teaching Reactivation (2020)
- Student representative, General Committee of the Graduate School (2017-2021)
- Graduate representative, Committee for Campus-Constituency-Elected Trustees (2020-2022)
- Division Chief, Arts & Humanities (2019-2020)
- Voting Member, Arts & Humanities (2017-2020)
- Field Representative, Science & Technology Studies (2016-2019)

Cornell University Center for Teaching Innovation, Graduate Fellow (2019)

Cornell University Department of Science & Technology Studies, weekly Science Studies Reading Group (SSRG) organizer and moderator (2017-2018)

Cornell University Center for Teaching Innovation, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Practitioner Program (2016-2017)