

Paul O'Keefe

Instructor

Department of Geography, Rutgers University

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Summary Statement

Human geographer and political ecologist with a focus on development, vulnerability, resilience and adaptation to climate change. Instructor in the Department of Geography at Rutgers University, teaching introductory and senior level courses. Regional expertise in sub-Saharan Africa, specifically East Africa, ten months of field based research through my graduate studies. Developing a strong, well rounded geography teaching portfolio, and continuing post-doctoral research activities.

Education

2015 West Virginia University: PhD Geography

Dissertation title: Changing vulnerabilities in a changing climate: Farming opportunity and constraint in Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania

Advisor: Dr Brent McCusker. Committee: Dr Bradley Wilson (WVU), Dr Jeremia Njeru (WVU), Dr Robert Maxon (WVU) and Dr Karen Culcasi (WVU)

*The late Neil Smith was a member of the committee for much of the doctoral study period

2007 University of Northumbria (UK): MSc Disaster Management and Sustainable Development

Thesis Title: Vulnerability and Capital Asset Generation: a case study in the Chagga Homegardens of Mount Kilimanjaro. Advisor: Dr Samantha Jones

2006 University of Leeds (UK): BA (Hons) Environmental Management

Thesis Title: Coping Mechanisms in Response to Drought: a case study from the Taita Hills, Kenya

Appointments

2016 Rutgers University: Instructor, Department of Geography

2014-2016 Louisiana State University: Instructor, Department of Geography and Anthropology

Training

Development Geography, Political Economy, Political Ecology, Adaptation to Climate Change, Historical Materialism, Coupled Human-Natural Systems, Q-squared approaches, Agrarian Studies, Vulnerability Analysis, Resilience, Livelihoods Approaches, Social Theory, Tanzania, East Africa, Africa

Publications

O'Keefe, P.J.M (2013). "Vulnerability and Livelihoods on Mt. Kilimanjaro." Human Geography. 6(3): 30-45

McCusker, B, O'Keefe P.J.M., O'Keefe, P, O'Brien G (2013): "Peasants, Pastoralists, and Proletarians: joining the debates on trajectories of Agrarian Change, Livelihoods and Land Use." Human Geography. 6(3): 3-11

Meena, H.E., Mwakifwamba, S., Lugenja, M., Mella, E., Sharif, Z., O'Keefe, P.J.M., O'Keefe, M., Stephenson M., Mascaerhanas, A., Gadema, Z., O'Keefe, P. The Tanzanian Adaptation Program, pp 275-298. In, O'Brien G. O'Keefe P. Devisscher T. (eds) 2011 The Adaptation Continuum: Groundwork for the Future. Lambert Academic Publishing, Germany. ISBN: 978-3-8433-8143-7

Articles in progress:

O'Keefe, P.J.M. "Exploring radical conceptions of vulnerability in Tanzania." Submitted to ACME in Spring 2016

O'Keefe, P.J.M. "Climate Change and People Change: Dancing the Dialectic." Submitted to Human Geography 2016

O'Keefe, P.J.M., O'Brien, G., and O'Keefe, P. "Climate change, political economy and sub-Saharan Africa: an overview of contemporary knowledge." Revised for Review of African Political Economy 2016

O'Keefe, P.J.M., McCusker, B. and O'Keefe P "Harvey's six moments and the articulation of rural transformation: changing vulnerabilities in a changing climate?" To be submitted to Capitalism, Nature and Socialism in 2016

O'Keefe, P.J.M. "Deagrarianization and vulnerability on Kilimanjaro." To be submitted to the Review of African Political Economy, in 2016

O'Keefe, P.J.M. and Shanguiya, N. "Double exposure, vulnerability and the production of nature: evidence from Kenya and Tanzania." To be submitted to Geoforum in 2017

Presentations

O'Keefe, P.J.M. 2016. Deagrarianization and vulnerability on Kilimanjaro. Annual Meeting, American Association of Geographers, 29 March -2 April 2016, San Francisco, CA. (paper). Part of a session on 'Radical Africana' that I organized and chaired.

O'Keefe, P.J.M. 2015. The Dialectical Gradient: People, Local Environments and Climate Change on Kilimanjaro. Annual Meeting, Association of American Geographers, 20-24 April 2015, Chicago, IL.
(paper)

O'Keefe, P.J.M. 2014. Livelihood diversification: process of enhancing resilience or function of an inability to commodify household labor? Annual Meeting, Association of American Geographers, 8-12 April 2014, Tampa, FL. (paper)

O'Keefe, P.J.M. 2013. Exploring the Impact of Climate Change on Future Livelihoods in Tanzania. Annual Meeting, Association of American Geographers, 4-8 April 2013, Los Angeles, CA. (paper)

Smith, J.L., O'Keefe, P.J.M., Napier C., Shanguhya, N. And Felton, L.D. 2010. Resource Extraction and Accumulation through Dispossession: the case of West Virginia. Annual Meeting, Association of American Geographers, 14-18 April 2010, Washington, DC. (paper)

O'Keefe, P.J.M. 2009. Vulnerability and Livelihoods on Mt. Kilimanjaro. Annual Meeting, Association of American Geographers, 22-27 March 2009, Las Vegas, NV. (paper)

Teaching Experience

Rutgers University, Department of Geography Fall 2016

Instructor of Record. Geography 102 Transforming the Global Environment (2 sections)

Louisiana State University, Department of Geography and Anthropology Spring 2016

Instructor of Record. Geography 1001 Human Geography: Americas and Europe (2 sections)

Instructor of Record. Geography 1003 Human Geography: Africa and Asia (1 section)

Instructor of Record. Geography 4078: Environment and Development

Fall 2015

Instructor of Record. Geography 1001 Human Geography: Americas and Europe (2 sections)

Instructor of Record. Geography 1003 Human Geography: Africa and Asia (2 sections)

Spring 2015

Instructor of Record. Geography 1001 Human Geography: Americas and Europe (2 sections)

Instructor of Record. Geography 1003 Human Geography: Africa and Asia (2 sections)

Fall 2014

Instructor of Record. Geography 1001 Human Geography: Americas and Europe (2 sections)

Instructor of Record. Geography 1003 Human Geography: Africa and Asia (2 sections)

Instructor of Record. Geography/Anthropology 4086: Human/Environment Relations

West Virginia University, Department of Geology and Geography

Summer 2013; Summer 2012

Instructor of Record. Geography 107: Physical Geography

Spring 2013

Instructor of Record. Geography 243: Geography of Africa

Fall 2012; Spring 2011; Fall 2010; Spring 2009; Fall 2008

Instructor in Geography 106: Introduction to Physical Geography (Lab)

Summer 2011

Instructor of Record. Geography 102: World Regions

Spring 2010

Teaching Assistant in Geography 108: Human Geography

Fall 2009

Teaching Assistant in Geography 107: Physical Geography

Memberships and Affiliations

Member, Association of American Geographers, 2008 – present

Director, Development Geographies Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2016

Student Representative, Development Geographies Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers 2013 - 2015

Member, Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2008 – present

Member, Africa Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2008 – present

Member, Socialist and Critical Geography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2008 – present

Vice President, WVU Geography Graduate Student Group, 2008-2010

Member, WVU Geography Colloquium Committee, 2009-2010

Graduate Representative, Geography Search Committee, 2008-2009

Grants and Awards

Global Education Opportunities Grant: West Virginia University Office of International Programs, \$500.

Awarded Spring 2013

Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant. \$300-\$500. Awarded Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2013, Spring 2014