

David E. Gilbert, Ph.D.
Curriculum vitae
August 2023

Present Position

Post-Doctoral Researcher
Society and Environment Division
Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management
University of California, Berkeley

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Research Specialization

Social movements, migration and mobilities, Indonesia, Sumatra

Education

2018	Ph.D., Anthropology, Stanford University
2007	Indonesian Language. University of Wisconsin, Madison. Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute
2005	B.A., Ecology <i>cum laude</i> and with Honors. Claremont McKenna College.
2001	Documentary Photography. Brooks Institute of Photography

Academic Appointments

2023-	Post-Doctoral Researcher. Division of Society and Environment. Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management. University of California, Berkeley
2021-22	Post-Doctoral Researcher. Center for Southeast Asia Studies. Institute of East Asian Studies. Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies. University of California, Berkeley.
2018-2020	S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowship in Political Economy.

Division of Society and Environment. Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management. University of California, Berkeley.

2018 Lecturer. Department of Anthropology. Stanford University.

Books

2024 *Countering Dispossession, Reclaiming Land: A social movement ethnography*. Forthcoming from University of California Press.

Journal Articles and Essays

2023 Gilbert, DE. "The Dispossessed's Embrace: mobility and social reproduction in third-path social movements" Under review at *Globalizations* as part of special issue *The Plantation-Migration Nexus* edited by Nancy Peluso and Rachel Silvey.

2022 Gilbert, DE. "Shutting Down the Machines of Destruction: Expanding the possibilities of agrarian life on the protest blockade." *Antipode* Early Access December 2022. DOI:10.1111/anti.129100. Part of special issue *On the Blockade* edited by Charmain Chua and Kai Bosworth.

2022 Gilbert, DE and Virtuous Setyaka. "Tekanan Kapitalis dan Dinamika Wanatani Krui di Sumatera." *Jurnal Sosiologi Andalas* 8(2), 146-158. <https://doi.org/10.25077/jsa.8.2.146-158.2022>

2021 Gilbert, DE and Maron Greenleaf. "Earth Aflame" Introduction and co-editor of *Cultural Anthropology's* Hotspots Series "Firestorm: Critical approaches to forest life and death" of 15 essays. July 2021.

2021 Gilbert, DE. "Firescapes, Smoke, and Woe" in *Cultural Anthropology's* "Firestorm: Critical approaches to forest life and death" Hotspots Series. July 2021

2020 Gilbert, DE. "Laborers becoming 'peasants': agroecological politics in a Sumatran plantation zone." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 47(5): 1030-1051. DOI: 10.1080/03066150.2019.1602521

2019 Gilbert, DE and Afrizal. "The land exclusion dilemma and Sumatra's agrarian reactionaries." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 46(4): 681-704 DOI:10.1080/03066150.2017.1404990

2017 Gilbert, DE. "Territorialization in a closing commodity frontier: the Yasuní rainforests of West Amazonia." *Journal of Agrarian Change* 18(2). 229-248 DOI:10.1111/joac.12227

2017 Gilbert, DE. "The 'Capitalist Squeeze' and the Rise and Fall of Sumatra's Krui Agroforests." *Human Ecology* 45(5): 711-717.

DOI: 10.1007/s10745-017-9932-3

- 2011 Paoli G.D. *et al.* 2011 (9th author). "Policy Perils of ignoring uncertainty in oil palm research." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 108 (25): E218. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1105075108

Grants, fellowships, and awards

- 2020 Dorthea Lange Fellowship for use of photography in scholarly work. University of California, Berkeley.
- 2018-20 S.V. Ciriacy Wantrup Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Political Economy. University of California, Berkeley. College of Natural Resources. "After the Plantation: Nature, Work, and Politics on a Sumatran Volcano."
- 2017-8 Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center. Stanford University. "Cultivating Post-Industrial Life on a Sumatran Volcano."
- 2016 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant in Cultural Anthropology. "Changes in tropical forest farming under conditions of rapid socio-ecological restructuring" (Co-PI William Durham).
- 2015 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant. "Continuity and Change in Sumatran Tropical Forest Farming" (Co-PI William Durham).
- 2015 Digital Globe Foundation Grant. "Continuity and change in Sumatran tropical forest farming."
- 2015 American Institute for Indonesian Studies - Henry Luce Foundation Research Grant. "Identity, place and plants: Sumatra's forest-farmers."
- 2014 Abbasi Program Student Grant. Stanford University. "Identity, power and place: the Laskar opposition to Indonesia's new environmental justice movement."
- 2014 Social Science Research Council Dissertation Workshop Grant. "Dispossession, capital and the state" (In conjunction with the Association of Asian Studies).
- 2012 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Honorable Mention. "Boundary making and agrarian reform in the Indonesian rural frontier."
- 2012 Department of Anthropology Summer research grant. Stanford University "Environmental anthropology of Agrarian Indonesia."
- 2011 NASA Land Cover Land Use Change Grant. "Socio-economic and

- political drivers of palm oil expansion in Indonesia: Effects on rural livelihoods, carbon emissions and REDD" – Student Collaborator (PI - Lisa Curran).
- 2010-11 Robert and Cynthia Lang Stanford University Fellowship in Environmental Anthropological Sciences.
- 2008 National Geographic Young Explorer, "The Underground Economy of Leuser National Park, Aceh, Indonesia."
- 2008 SEVEN fund for global poverty alleviation, "Alternative livelihoods in Aceh, Indonesia" (Co-PI with Zarah Rahman).
- 2007 Henry Luce Scholar Fellowship. "Conservation and livelihoods in Sumatra, Indonesia."
- 2006 Fulbright US Student Fellowship. "Social importance of Huaorani hunting and food sharing in Ecuador."
- 2005 Claremont McKenna College Student Athlete of the Year.

Conference Organizing

- 2022 "Agrarian Realpolitik: Migration, Work, and Large-Scale Land Enclosures in Indonesia." Chair and Co-Organizer with Nancy Peluso. Association for Asian Studies. Honolulu, Hawaii. March 26, 2022.
- 2022 "Social Reproduction and Mobile Labor in Indonesia's Plantation Zones" Co-organizer of two panels with Nancy Peluso, Lisa Kelley, and Kim Carlson. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. New York City, NY. February 28, 2022.
- 2021 "Firestorm: Critical approaches to forest death and life." Co-organizer with Maron Greenleaf. American Association of Anthropologists Annual Meeting. Baltimore, USA. November 17, 2021
- 2016 "Development's 'Half-Life': Diverse moments in extractive capital." Co-organizer with Maron Greenleaf. American Association of Anthropologists, Minneapolis. November 18, 2016.
- 2013 "Invisible boundaries: Geography, identity, and peoples in voluntary isolation in Ecuador." Co-organizer with Ciara Worth and Moi Enomenga. Stanford Center for Latin American Studies. May 31, 2013.
- 2012 "On Activism and Academia." Co-organizer. Stanford Graduate Student Conference. Stanford Humanities Center. October 12, 2012.

Conference Presentations

- 2022 "Decolonizing transnational environmental struggles: The Baram Peace

- Project as practice of indigenous territorial control and transnational solidarity.” POLLEN: The 4th Biennial Conference of the Political Ecology Network. Durban, South Africa. September 19, 2022.
- 2022 “New Logics of Mobility and Migration in Indonesia’s Agrarian Justice Movements.” With Professor Afrizal (Universitas Andalas, Padang, West Sumatra). Association for Asian Studies. Honolulu, Hawaii. March 26, 2022.
- 2022 “Bricoleurs and Blockaders: Bringing migration and mobility into agrarian justice movements.” American Association of Geographers. New York City, NY. February 28, 2022.
- 2021 “Firescapes, Smoke, and Woe from Sumatra to California.” American Association of Anthropologists Annual Meeting. Baltimore, USA. November 17, 2021.
- 2019 “Agrichemical and Sumatran cobra encounters on a failed palm oil plantation.” American Association of Anthropologists Annual Meeting. Vancouver, British Columbia. November 22, 2019.
- 2019 “Land occupation ecology as anti-plantation politics.” World Ecology Research Network Meeting. San Francisco, Ca. May 31, 2019
- 2019 "On the blockade in a Sumatran plantation zone". American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. April 3, 2019.
- 2018 "Agroecological politics in a Sumatran plantation zone". American Association of Anthropologists Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA. November 18, 2018.
- 2018 "Political Ecology Aesthetics." San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, A Line in the Sand: Ecology, Art, Precarity. UC Berkeley-Stanford University Symposium. April 7, 2018.
- 2016 "After capital's disconnection, a post-industrial land control." American Association of Anthropologists, Minneapolis, MN. November 17, 2016.
- 2012 "Contested social mobilizations in Indonesia's contentious forestlands." On Activism and Academia Conference, Stanford University, CA. October 10, 2012.

Invited Presentations

- 2019 “Creating a more livable world: Ecology, agriculture, and autonomy in Indonesia.” University of California, Berkeley. University of California Botanical Garden. May 14, 2019.
- 2019 "Counter-Trajectories of Agrarian Change: Agroecology and Politics on a Sumatran Volcano" University of California, Berkeley. Co-sponsored by the departments of South East Asian Studies and Environmental Science,

- Policy, and Management. February 26, 2019.
- 2018 "Laborers Becoming 'Peasants': Agroecological politics in a Sumatran plantation-zone." Yale University. New Haven, CT. Council on Southeast Asia Studies. October 24, 2018.
- 2018 "Introductory Remarks for Tania Li." Precarity and Promises Stanford Anthropology Graduate Student Conference. April 27, 2018.
- 2018 "After the Plantation." Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, CA. February 27, 2018.
- 2017 "Spatial technologies of power and a rural workers' reclamation." Stanford University Spatial Social Science Workshop. November 3, 2017.
- 2017 "A counter-trajectory of development: Politics and agroecology on a Sumatran volcano." Anthropology Forum, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, CA. January 22, 2017.
- 2016 "Observing agrarian change on a Sumatran Volcano." Andalas University, Department of Sociology, West Sumatra. March 31, 2016.
- 2014 "Sumatra's environmental resistance movements." Student Environmental Resource Center. UC Berkeley, CA. September 24, 2014.
- 2014 "Film and land in Indonesia." Panel discussion at the Asia Foundation, San Francisco, CA. June 23, 2014.
- 2013 "The intersection of human rights and palm oil." Stanford Law School International Human Rights Clinic. September 5, 2013.
- 2013 "A genealogy of environmental resistance." Stanford University, Department of Anthropology's Brown Bag Forum. April 15, 2013.

Teaching

- 2018 Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology. Lecturer, Stanford University.
- 2017 Environmental Change and the Politics of Nature. Lecturer, Stanford University.
- 2011 Environmental Change and Emerging Infectious Disease. Teaching Fellow, Stanford University.
- 2006 Advanced Placement Biology. Teacher, San Francisco de Quito College Preparatory School.

Professional Service and Affiliations

- Reviewer for:
 Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene

Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy, 2023-
Journal of Asian Studies, 2022-
The Journal of Peasant Studies, 2018-
Journal of Agrarian Change, 2018-
Journal of Land Use Policy, 2018-
Human Ecology, 2016-

East Bay College Fund (Oakland, CA). Mentor to first generation college students in Oakland, CA., 2017-

Research Advisor to the Borneo Project, 2019-

National Geographic Society. Grants reviewer, 2019-

Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science.
Panelist, Demystifying the Post-Doc event. University of California, Berkeley.
October 23, 2019

Henry Luce Foundation. Luce Scholars Program interviewer and country orientation leader - Indonesia. 2010-2015.

Professional Association Memberships:

Association for Asian Studies, 2018-
Society for Economic Anthropology, 2013-
Anthropology and Environment Society, 2011-
American Association of Geographers, 2010-
American Anthropological Association, 2010-

Interviews, Popular writing, and Photography

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| 2022 | “Gold Farmers in an Indonesian Extractive Landscape.” Co-Curator with David Eifler. Photography exhibition. UC Berkeley Environmental Design Library. Berkeley, CA. September 13 - December 15, 2022. |
| 2019 | National Public Radio’s All Things Considered. “Could this tree be an eco-friendly way to wean Indonesian farmers off palm oil?” (interview). October 19, 2019. |
| 2019 | Food First. “The Forest Farms Still Stand: Indonesia's Krui forest farmers persist in the face of capitalism's relentless squeeze.” September 11, 2019. |
| 2019 | Al Jazeera English. “Why are environmental activists under attack?” (interview). August 7, 2019. |
| 2017 | Mongabay.com. "Economic headwinds buffet once-resilient Sumatran forest-farms" (interview). October 23, 2017. |
| 2016 | Smithsonian. "Did deforestation contribute to Zika's spread?" |

- (photography). June 8, 2016.
- 2013 Earth Island Journal. "Palm oil companies are destroying forests in Indonesian and Malaysia. Some communities are fighting back." Winter 2013
- 2013 Human Rights Watch. "The dark side of green growth" (photography). July 2013.
- 2012 Environmental News Network. "Sumatran orangutan relocated as forest clearing continues." June 4, 2012.
- 2012 Outside Magazine. "Boilover: Bill McKibben is becoming Big Oil's biggest threat" (photography). October 2012.
- 2012 US AID. "Ecological and Social Dynamics of Land Use in the Wallace Narrows." Working paper for PREVENT global health initiative. May 2012, p. 50.
- 2011 Times of London. "The UN wants rich countries to pay poor nations to halt deforestation. Is either side interested?" (photography). April 2011.
- 2011 Times of London. "Tesco greeting cards are costing the earth" (photography). July 2011.
- 2011 Mongabay.com. "Asia Pulp and Paper to undertake human rights audit" (interview). September 22, 2011.
- 2010 BBC News Panorama. "Dying for a biscuit: the palm oil in our trolleys is killing Indonesia's orangutans" (photography). February 2010.
- 2010 Guardian. "The deflowering of the EU's green logo" (photography). April 15, 2010.
- 2010 Mother Jones. "Indonesia's Billion Dollar Experiment" (photography). December 6, 2010.

Languages and skills

Advanced Indonesian

Advanced Spanish

Open-source GIS and satellite photography analysis (QGIS)

Social and ecological survey design, focus group moderation, and statistical analysis

Visual media and web-design

Wilderness first responder and search-and-rescue training