

Wendy Wolford

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Education

Ph.D., 2001, University of California, Berkeley, Department of Geography
Dissertation advisor: Michael J. Watts
“*This Land is Ours Now: Social Mobilization and the Struggle for Agrarian Reform in Brazil*”
M.S., 1997, University of California, Berkeley, Department of Geography
Thesis advisor: Michael J. Watts
“*Contract Farming and the Poultry Industry in Brazil*”
B.A., 1994, with honors, McGill University, Department of Economics
Minor in International Development

Professional History

2001–7, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
2007 – Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Geography, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Honors

2008 Fellow, Institute for Arts and Humanities, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2004-5 Fellow, Program in Agrarian Studies, [Yale University](#)
2004 Award for Outstanding Academic Book in Economics by [Choice: Reviews for Academic Libraries](#), the publication of the American Library Association, for *To Inherit the Earth: The Landless Movement and the Struggle for a New Brazil*. Oakland, CA: Food First! Publications (co-authored with Angus Wright).
2002 J. Warren Nystrom Award for Best Dissertation in Geography - awarded by the American Association of Geographers.
1995-00 Chancellor’s Fellow, [University of California at Berkeley](#)
1998-9 Dissertation Fellow, [Institute for the Study of World Politics](#)
1998-9 Simpson Fellow, Institute of International Studies, [University of California at Berkeley](#)
1996-7 International Pre-Dissertation Fellow, [Social Science Research Council](#)
1996 Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor, [University of California at Berkeley](#)

Grants and Research Awards

External

2007-8 [Andrew Mellon Foundation](#), Sawyer Seminar Award for “The Changing Nature(s) of Land: Property, Peasants, and Production in a Global World,” PI (2007-8, \$120,000)
2005-9 [National Science Foundation](#), Regular Grant for “Grounding the State: An Institutional Ethnography of Agrarian Reform in Brazil,” PI (2005-08, \$140,000)
1998-9 [National Science Foundation](#) Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for “Putting Networks in their Places: Local Linkages, National Networks and Land Reform in Brazil,” Co-PI (1998-9, \$10,000)

Internal to UNC Chapel Hill

- 2007 UNC Chapel Hill, University Center for International Studies, Faculty Course Development Award for undergraduate course on “Ethnographies of Globalization” (\$3,250)
- 2004-5 UNC Chapel Hill, University Research Council Award for “Farming the Frontier: Agriculture, the Environment and Development in the Brazilian Cerrado,” PI (\$4,000)
- 2002-3 UNC Chapel Hill, University Grant for Junior Faculty Development, PI (\$5,000)
- 2005-7 UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University Consortium in Latin American Studies, Funding for a Working Group on the “Global Grassroots,” and “Agrarian Politics,” Faculty Co- Chair (\$2,500 per year)
- 2003-5 UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University Consortium in Latin American Studies, Funding for a Working Group on “Re-thinking the Political,” Faculty Co-Chair (\$3,000 per year)

Publications

Books

Forthcoming. *This Land is Ours Now: Social Mobilization and Sugarcane in the Brazilian Northeast*. Under contract with Duke Press.

2003. *To Inherit the Earth: The Landless Movement and the Struggle for a New Brazil*. Oakland, CA: Food First! Publications (co-authored with Angus Wright). [Reviews of this book have been published in the following peer-reviewed journals: *Race and Class* (2004); *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* (2005); *Latin American Research Review* (2006); *Radical Political Economy* (2006); *Latin American Perspectives* (2006); and forthcoming in: *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*.]

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Forthcoming (2008). “Environmental Justice and the Construction of Scale in Brazilian Agriculture,” *Society and Natural Resources*, special issue on “Environmental Justice Abroad,” edited by Richard Schroeder.

Forthcoming (2008), with Brenda Baletti and Tamara Johnson. “Late Mobilization: Transnational Peasant Networks and Grassroots Organizing in Brazil and South Africa,” in a special issue of the *Journal of Agrarian Change*, edited by Saturnino Borrás jr., Marc Edelman and Cristobal Kay.

Forthcoming (2008). “Global Shadows: A Commentary,” comments of Global Shadows by James Ferguson, in a special issue of the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*.

2007. “Land Reform in the Time of Neo-Liberalism: A Many Splendored Thing,” *Antipode* 39(3): 550-572 (special issue on “Privatization,” edited by Becky Mansfield and Melissa Wright).

2006. “The Difference Ethnography Can Make: Understanding Social Mobilization and Development in the Brazilian Northeast,” *Qualitative Sociology*, June 2006: 1 – 18.

<Revised for reprint in a collected volume titled ‘Politics under the Microscope: Readings in Political Ethnography,’ edited by Lauren Joseph, Mathew Mahler and Javier Auyero, forthcoming with Springer Press, Fall 2007.>

2005. “Agrarian Moral Economies and Neo-liberalism in Brazil: Competing World-Views and the State in the Struggle for Land” *Environment and Planning, A*, 37: 241-261

<Revised for reprint in a collection titled 'Neoliberal Environments: False Promises and Unnatural Consequences,' edited by Nik Heynen, James McCarthy, Scott Prudham, and Paul Robbins, forthcoming with Routledge Press.>

2004. "This Land is Ours Now: A New Perspective on Social Movement Formation," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 94(2): 409-424.

<Requested for reprint in a collection titled 'Development: Critical Essays in Human Geography,' a volume edited by Stuart Corbridge for the Series on Contemporary Foundations of Space and Place.>

2004. "Of Land and Labor: Agrarian Reform on the Sugarcane Plantations of Northeast Brazil," *Journal of Latin American Perspectives* 31(2): 147-170.

2003. "Producing Community: Geographies of Commitment on Land Reform Settlements in Brazil," *Journal of Agrarian Change* 3(4): 500-520.

2003. "Families, Fields, and Fighting for Land: The Spatial Dynamics of Contention in Rural Brazil," *Mobilization* 8(2): 201-215

<Reprinted in original form in a collected volume titled 'Latin American Social Movements,' edited by Hank Johnston, published by Rowman and Littlefield, 2006.>

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

Forthcoming. "Environmental Justice and Agricultural Development in the Brazilian Cerrado," in a collection titled *Environmental Justice in Latin America*, edited by David Carruthers, under review with MIT Press.

Forthcoming. "MST Settlements in Pernambuco: Identity and Resistance," in a collection titled *The Landless Rural Workers' Movement (MST) and Agrarian Reform in Brazil*, edited by Miguel Carter, with Duke University Press.

2006. "Sem Reforma Agrária, Não Há Democracia": The Struggle Over Access to Land and Deepening Democracy in Brazil," in *Civil Society and Democracy in Latin America*, edited by Richard Feinberg, Carlos Waisman, and Leon Zamosc. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

2001. "From State-Led to Grassroots-Led Land Reform in Latin America," in *Access to Land, Rural Poverty and Public Action*, pp. 279-303, edited by Alain De Janvry, Gustavo Gordillo, Jean-Philippe Platteau, and Elisabeth Sadoulet. Oxford: Oxford University Press (with Alain de Janvry and Elisabeth Sadoulet).

2001. "Case Study: Grassroots-Initiated Land Reform in Brazil: The Rural Landless Workers' Movement," in *Access to Land, Rural Poverty and Public Action*, pp. 304-315, edited by Alain De Janvry, Gustavo Gordillo, Jean-Philippe Platteau, and Elisabeth Sadoulet. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Non-refereed Publications

- Forthcoming. Entries for “peasants” and “Jared Diamond” for the *Encyclopedia of Environment and Society*, edited by Paul Robbins, published by Sage Publication (3 pages)
2006. “The MST in summary and in Debate,” prepared for the Núcleo de Estudos Agrários e Desenvolvimento Rural (NEAD, a research agency affiliated with the Ministry for Agrarian Development) for presentation on the website (10 pages each – version in Portuguese and in English)
2005. Book review: *Political Ecology*, by Paul Robbins for the *Annals of the AAG* 95(3): 717-719.
2005. Book review: *Agrarian Studies: Essays of Agrarian Relations in Less-Developed Countries*, edited volume, for the *Journal of Asian Economics* 15(6): 1229-1231.
2004. Peasant Associations in Theory and Practice, with Nora McKeon and Michael Watts. Civil Society and Social Movements Programme Paper Number 8, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (60 pages)
2002. Book review: *After the Revolution: Gender and Democracy in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala*, by Ilja Luciak for *Social Forces* 81(2): 680-681.
2001. “Research as a Process” written for the Berkeley-Rockefeller African Development Dissertation Workshop Program, Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley (10 pages).
1996. “Edible Ideology: Survival Strategies in Brazilian Land Reform Settlements” *Geographical Review* 86(3): 457-461.

Teaching and Advising

Students Advised, committee chair (UNC unless otherwise indicated)

Graduate

Brenda Balletti (PhD, Geography, current); Angela Cacciaru (PhD, Geography, current); Diana Gildea (PhD, Geography, current); Elizabeth Hennessy (PhD, Geography); Stephanie Nelson (MA, Geography, 2007); Adrian Wilson (MA, Geography 2007) Holly Worthen (PhD, Geography, current).

Undergraduate Honors’ Theses

Elizabeth Carlson (International Studies); Shepard Daniels (International Studies); Timothy Hester (Spanish and Portuguese, 2002); Jane Hudson (Latin American Studies); James Martin (Geography, 2005); Claire McGarry (International Studies); Stuart Pratt (Latin American Studies, 2004); Jessica Rutter (African American Studies, Duke University, 2004); Katherine Shields (Public Policy, 2006).

Students Advised, committee member (UNC unless otherwise indicated)

Graduate

Ana Araujo (PhD, Anthropology); Timothy Baird (PhD, Geography); Dilys Bowman (PhD, Geography); Ashley Carse (PhD, Anthropology); Sebastian Cobbarubias (PhD, Geography); Juanita Darling (PhD, Journalism and Mass Comm, 2004); Brian Doyle (MA, Geography, 2004); Helene Ducros (PhD, Geography); Murat Es (PhD, Geography); Travis Graham (MA, Geography); Clark Gray (PhD, Geography); Liza Guzman (PhD, Ecology); Srinath Jayaram (PhD, Communication Studies); Tamara Johnson (PhD, Geography); Jonathon Lepofsky (PhD, Geography, 2007); Amy

McCleary (PhD, Geography); Zoe Meletis (PhD, Nicholas School of Environment, Duke University, 2007); Linda Quiquívix (PhD, Geography); Matthew Reilly (PhD, Geography); Thomas Rogers (PhD, History at Duke University, 2005); Sara Safransky (MA, City and Regional Planning); Jill Sherman (PhD, Geography); Greg Taff (PhD, Geography, 2006).

Courses Taught

Geography 20: World Regional Geography

Geography 21: People and Places, an introduction to Human Geography*

Geography 21b: Ethnographic Globalization: A Research course in Human Geography*

Geography 160/260: Geography of Economic Development*

Geography 203: Research Design: Theory and Practice*

Geography 306: Liberation Geographies: Social Mobilization in Theory and Practice*

Independent Study, graduate seminar: Political Ecology*

Independent Study, graduate seminar: Agrarian Studies*

* New Courses Created

Guest Lectures

Geography 30, UNC-CH (Developing World, Melinda Meade); Geography 59, UNC-CH (Latin America, Tom Whitmore); Anthropology 98, UNC-CH (Latin American Social Movements, Michal Osterweil); Anthropology 103 (Anthropology of Globalization, Arturo Escobar); Anthropology 300, UNC-CH (Anthropology of the Economy, Donald Nonini); City and Regional Planning (Graduate seminar on Qualitative Methods, Meenu Tewari); Geography 121, Vassar College (Geographies of Latin America, Pamela Martin); History 200, Duke University (Seminar on Brazilian History, Paolo Fontes).

Presentations

Invited Academic Presentations, including focused conferences:

2008, May, Conference on Agrarian Studies and the Journal of Agrarian Change, SOAS, University of London, England, hosted by Terence Byres and Henry Bernstein.

2008, March, "Grounding the State: An Institutional Ethnography of Agrarian Reform in Brazil," Department of International Development Studies, St. Mary's University, Halifax, NS, Canada.

2007, September, Department of Sociology, Cornell University, Conference on Social Movement Studies, organized by Phillip McMichael.

2007, March, Department of Sociology, SUNY Stonybrook

2006, October, Department of Geography, UT Austin

2006, January 27, "21st Century Peasants: The Cultural Politics of Agrarian Populism in Brazil," Department of Geography, *Dartmouth College*

2005, September 5, "Every Monkey has its Own Head: Rural Sugarcane Workers and the Politics of Becoming a Peasant in Northeastern Brazil," Department of Geography, *UNC Chapel Hill*

2005, April 30, "Human Rights and the Struggle for Land in Brazil," Conference on Brazil: An Interdisciplinary Perspective, *Cornell University*

- 2005, April 29, "Every Monkey has its Own Head: Rural Sugarcane Workers and the Politics of the Peasantry in Brazil," Department of Development Sociology," *Cornell University*
- 2005, April 13, "The Politics of Becoming a Peasant: Cultural Politics and Agrarian Populism in Brazil," Geography and Latin American Studies, *Vassar University*
- 2005, March 25, "The New Politics of the Peasantry: Rural Sugarcane Workers and the Landless Movement in Brazil," Department of Geography, *Clark University*
- 2005, February 23, "The Politics of Becoming a Peasant: Cultural Politics and Agrarian Populism in Brazil," Latin American Studies Program and Department of History, *Central Connecticut State University*
- 2005, January 21, "Every Monkey has its Own Head: Rural Sugarcane Workers and the Politics of Becoming a Peasant in Northeastern Brazil," paper presented for discussion at the Program in Agrarian Studies, *Yale University*
- 2005, January 15, "The Politics of Becoming a Peasant: Rural Sugarcane Workers and the Landless Movement in Northeastern Brazil," Latin American Studies Center, *Columbia University*.
- 2004, December 1, "The Politics of Becoming a Peasant: Rural Sugarcane Workers and the Landless Movement in Northeastern Brazil," Bildner Center, *City University of New York*.
- 2004, October 7, "Agrarian Populism and the Politics of Scale in Brazil," presented at the Conference on Environmental Justice Abroad, *Rutgers University*, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2004, June 4 – 6, "Agrarian Populism and the Cultural Politics of Scale in Brazil," presented at the conference on Re-envisioning Society: The State of the Nation and the Social Imagination in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, *Central European University*, Budapest, Hungary.
- 2004, April 22, "Unequal Spaces: Spatial Imaginaries and Contention," Latin American Studies Program, *Syracuse University*.
- 2004, January 30, "Fighting for Land, Some of the Time: The Formation of Resistance in Northeastern Brazil," Department of Geography, *University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ*.
- 2003, October 17, "O MST em Pernambuco: Assentamentos, Identidade e Política de Resistência," presented at the Conference on O Movimento Dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra (MST) e a Reforma Agrária No Brasil, Centre for Brazilian Studies, *Oxford University*.
- 2003, March 24, "Sem Reforma Agrária, Não Ha Democracia": The Struggle Over Access to Land and Deepening Democracy in Brazil," presented at the conference on Structural Change, Political Institutions, and Civil Society in Latin America, *University of California at San Diego*, San Diego, CA.
- 2003, February 28, "Spaces of Resistance: The Politics of Land, National Identity and Development in Brazil," Department of Geography, *University of Georgia at Athens*.

Conference Sessions, with organizational role:

- 2006, March 8, co-organized panel session on “Labors of Love II: Theoretical Positions on Gender and the Academy” with Brenda Parker for the Annual Meeting of the AAGs, Chicago, IL (estimated attendance: 75).
- 2006, March 19, presented paper on “Land Reform as Industrial Modernization in the Sugarcane Industry of Northeastern Brazil” and co-organized four sessions on: 1. “Poverty and Anti-Poverty Programs;” 2. “The Many Faces of Agrarian Reform;” 3. “Social Mobilization;” 4. “Agriculture and the Environment” with Steven Helfand for the 28th Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Puerto Rico (estimated average attendance: 50).
- 2005, March, organized panel session on “Labors of Love: Parenting in Academia and Beyond,” for the Annual Meeting of the AAGs, Denver, CO (estimated attendance: 60).
- 2005, March, organized panel session on “Capitalist “Accumulation by Dispossession” and the Rise of Resource Populisms,” for the Annual Meeting of the AAGs, Denver, CO, (estimated attendance: 40).
- 2004, October, presented paper on “Every Monkey has its Own Head: Rural Sugarcane Workers and the Politics of Becoming a Peasant in Northeastern Brazil,” and co-organized two paper sessions on: “The Brazilian Countryside I and II,” with Steven Helfand, Angus Wright, and Miguel Carter, for the 27th Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Las Vegas, NV, (estimated average attendance: 60).
- 2003, April 27, presented a paper and organized a one-day mini-conference on “Globalization and the Changing Countryside: Organizing for Land, Labor and the “Right to have Rights’ in Brazil and North Carolina,” (estimated attendance: 35).
- 2002, March 20, co-organized and introduced a paper session on “Agrarian Politics and Regional Hegemonies,” with Sharad Chari for the Annual Meeting of the AAGs, Los Angeles, CA (estimated attendance 35).
- 2001, September 8, 25th Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Washington DC, presented a paper and co-organized a session on “The MST and Agrarian Reform in Brazil” with Gabriel Ondetti (estimated attendance: 40).

External Conference Presentations, no organizational role

- 2006, March 9, “Land Reform in the Time of Neoliberalism,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the AAGs, Chicago, IL.
- 2006, March 10, “The Moral Economy of Agrarian Livelihoods,” panel presentation for “Geography of Livelihoods: Theory and Practice,” organized by Jeff Bury and Brian King for the Annual Meeting of the AAGs, Chicago, IL.
- 2006, March 8, discussant for a paper session on “Property Regimes and Development,” organized by Angela Cacciaru for the Annual Meeting of the AAGs, Chicago, IL.
- 2005, October 15, “A Economia Moral: Dois Estudos de Caso na Zona da Mata Nordestina,” written and presented with Marilda Menezes at the Associação Nacional de Pesquisa nas Ciências Sociais (ANPOCS), Caxambú, MG, Brazil.

2005, May 5, Latin American Labor History Conference at Duke University, discussant.

2003, March 5, ““Negotiating Nature: Nation-Building and the Struggle for Land in Brazil,” presented in a special session on Of/For Nature?, Meeting of the AAGs in New Orleans, LA

2003, September 26, Latin American Labor History Conference at Duke University, discussant.

2002, April 6, “Making Memories: Ethnography the Morning After,” presented at the XXI Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Studies Association.

2001, November 18, “When Memories Meet Their Makers (or, When the “Other” Can Read): Reflections on Returning Ethnography to the Field” presented at the SEDAAG Annual Conference, Lexington, KY.

2001, February, “This Land is Ours Now: Agrarian Reform and the Making of the Brazilian Landless Class,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the AAGs, New York, NY.

Invited Non-Academic Presentations

2006, March 1, “Brazil: Past and Present,” Great Decisions, Woman’s Club of Raleigh

2006, April, “Agriculture and Social Movements in the Political Economy of Brazil,” Great Decisions, UNC Greensboro Business School, MBA program

Invited Radio Shows

August 16, 2003, “This is Hell,” WNUR 89.3 FM, Chicago, IL.

August 19, 2003, “Hemispheres,” KGNU 88.5 FM, Boulder, CO.

August 20, 2003, “The Journey Home,” KSFR 90.7 FM, Santa Fe, NM,

November 14, 2003, (with Angus Wright), “The Living Room,” KPFA, 94.1 FM, Berkeley, CA.

Professional Service

External

Article reviewer for: *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Professional Geographer*, *Antipode*, *Geoforum*, *Human Organization*, *Environment and Planning A and D*, *Journal of Politics and Society in Latin America*, and *Latin American Perspectives*.

Funding proposal reviewer for: the National Science Foundation, National Geographic, and the Social Science Research Council.

Executive Committee member, Brazil Strategy Network.

National Editorial Council member, História Social do Campesinato no Brasil (for the project: Social History of the Peasantry in Brazil).

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Graduate committee member, UNC Geography Department (2003-present)

Faculty Council Grievance Committee, member, 2006-2009

Faculty Council member, 2003-2006

Selection Committee, Mitchell Scholarship, 2003-present

Editorial Committee member, Latin America in Translation, book series co-directed by Duke University Press, University of North Carolina Press, and the Duke-UNC Latin American Studies Consortium

Research Affiliations

Date revised: February 20, 2008

Fellow, Center for Urban and Regional Studies, UNC Chapel Hill
Affiliate, Institute for Latin American Studies, UNC Chapel Hill