

# LENA PRANSKY

Davis, CA • lena.pransky@gmail.com • (978) 460-3747

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Graduate Student Researcher, Gender Equity in Extension

July 2022 - Present

*UC Davis Research Group on Agricultural Equity — Davis, CA*

- Designed and executed a comprehensive assessment of gender equity in global agricultural extension efforts, funded by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines.
- Devised an evaluation protocol to code existing literature on agricultural extension and identify relevant interventions promoting gender equity (using Zotero, EndNote and Dedoose qualitative analysis software).

### Graduate Student Researcher, Organic Soil Health Education

April - September 2022

*UC Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program — Davis, CA*

- Wrote and formatted a Spanish-language online course on soil health as part of an Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) grant.
- Leveraged science communication skills to solicit input from scientists and community representatives and craft culturally-relevant, accessible, and research-based content.

### Lead Student Farmer and Data Manager, Fresh Focus Program

July 2021 - March 2022

*UC Davis Student Farm — Davis, CA*

- Crafted quarterly program summary reports to share with donors and partners.
- Coordinated and managed a team of interns to harvest surplus produce on a 27-acre student-run farm, distributing produce to student centers throughout the Davis community to promote healthy food access.

### Teacher's Assistant

January - December 2021

*University of California, Davis — Davis, CA*

- Assisted with the following courses: Intro to Gender Studies, Intro to International Agricultural Development, Social & Personality Development, Social Change & Agricultural Development.
- Graded exams and written assignments, led discussion sessions, and provided feedback and student mentorship.

### Research Assistant

July - September 2021

*University of California Cooperative Extension — Yolo County, CA*

- Conducted in-field data collection and entry for three organic heirloom tomato trials to explore effects of rootstock grafting on disease management and yield, along with the impacts of mycorrhizal fungi application for nutrient management.
- Created informational summary sheets for a Cooperative Extension seminar video series for small and organic farmers, leveraging science communication skills to present technical crop and field management information in accessible language for farmers from various backgrounds.

### Agency Partner Specialist

June 2019- July 2020

*Second Harvest Heartland — St Paul, MN*

- Partnered with a diverse portfolio of over 120 hunger relief programs to offer opportunities for capacity-building and innovation to address gaps in the food security needs of local communities.
- Organized collaboration across a network of partner agencies to exchange best practices.
- Supported partners in accessing fresh produce through retail rescue and agricultural surplus.

### Food + You SNAP Outreach Specialist

August 2016 - June 2019

*Second Harvest Heartland — St Paul, MN*

- Developed and implemented a new school-based Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) referral system that nearly tripled family referrals for food benefits at partner schools.
- Forged partnerships with local legal aid agencies to demystify the process of obtaining food resources for mixed-status immigrant families. Created bilingual outreach materials, including videos, that are now used as a standard communication tool for external partners.
- Generated strategic plans as the key staff member assigned to a \$100,000 grant for child hunger.
- Facilitated focus groups with participating families to evaluate the effectiveness of child hunger programming, collaborating with an external analysis group to evaluate results and write annual reports.

### Interim Child Hunger Program Specialist, Communications Coordinator

April - October 2018

*Second Harvest Heartland — St Paul, MN*

- Utilized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis with ArcGIS software to identify areas of greatest unmet need for child hunger initiatives, informing organizational strategies.
- Conducted nearly 60 community-based interviews for a collective impact anti-hunger project.
- Analyzed interview transcripts using qualitative analysis software to craft a disseminated report.
- Coordinated internal staff and external communications consultants to mobilize community participation and advocate for legislative child hunger initiatives.

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## WORK EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

### SNAP Outreach and Translation Intern

June - August 2016

*Second Harvest Heartland — St Paul, MN*

- Supported Spanish-speaking individuals in applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Connected individuals identified as food insecure by local health clinics to community resources.

### Missing Migrant Intern

August - November 2014

*Coalición de Derechos Humanos — Tucson, AZ*

- Coordinated with consulates and detention centers to locate migrants reported missing by family members while crossing the Sonoran desert, and organized an annual vigil event for those who could not be found.

### Wage Theft and Web Design Intern

December 2013 - January 2014

*Metrowest Worker Center/Casa do Trabalhador — Framingham, MA*

- Assembled organizational meetings for migrants experiencing wage theft to strategize approaches for legal action.
- Reformatted the Center's web page, creating versions in Spanish and Portuguese.

## RESEARCH/PARTNERSHIPS

### National Institute for Agricultural Research (INTA)

June - August 2015; March 2021 - May 2022

— *Argentina*

- **2015:** Collaborated with INTA's agroecology network, visiting research sites and cooperatives to develop a literature review of Argentina's ecological farming initiatives.
- **2022:** Partnered with INTA to design and implement a master's thesis project in partnership with local agricultural stakeholders. Explored avenues for equitable and environmentally sustainable market inclusion for marginalized farmers in the peri-urban area south of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Project goals support INTA's aim of utilizing peri-urban areas to mitigate the urban heat island effect and address local micronutrient deficiencies through horticultural production.

### Student Project for Amity among Nations

January 2014 - March 2015

— *Minnesota/ Cuba/Puerto Rico*

- Designed and implemented a year-long ethnographic research project, including two months of field research.
- Interviewed farmers, government and corporate representatives to compare the realities, consequences and possible futures of the Cuban and Puerto Rican farming systems.

## AWARDS/COMMITTEES/CERTIFICATIONS

### — University of California, Davis, CA

2020-2023

- Jastro Agricultural and Environmental Science Research Award; Hemispheric Institute of the Americas Research Fellowship; Knight's Landing OneHealth Community Garden Committee Member; Graduate Admissions Committee Student Representative; Graduate Program Executive Committee Student Representative

### — Women's Environmental Institute, MN

2019-2020

- Aquaponics Farming Certificate

### — Second Harvest Heartland, MN

2019-2020

- Emerging Leaders Cohort Member; Training & Education Committee Member; Strategic Planning Committee Member

### — Macalester College, MN

2016

- Engaged Scholarship in Latin American Studies Award

## EDUCATION

### University of California, Davis— *Davis, CA*

September 2020 - March 2023

M.S. in International Agricultural Development, Certificate in Agricultural Extension

### Macalester College— *St Paul, MN*

September 2012 - May 2016

B.A. in Latin American Studies, Minors: Economics, Political Science, Portuguese

## LANGUAGES

Fluent in English, Spanish and American Sign Language. Proficient in Portuguese.

## SKILLS

- Proficiency in GIS (ArcGIS, QGIS)
- Focus group facilitation
- Cross-cultural and gender-sensitive research
- Web page design (WordPress)
- Proficiency in statistics (R, SPSS)
- Grant writing/reporting
- Science communication
- Sense-Making interview methodology
- Database management
- Qualitative analysis (Dedoose, NVivo)
- Video editing (iMovie)
- Coalition building
- Agricultural systems management
- Microsoft and Google Suites
- Basic photo editing