

shakara tyler
styler7788@gmail.com
484 639 1834

EDUCATION

PhD, Michigan State University, December 2019
Specialization: Community Sustainability

Master of Science, Michigan State University, May 2013
Specialization: Community Sustainability
Graduate Certification: Community Engagement

Bachelor of Science, The Pennsylvania State University, December 2010
Areas of Study: Agricultural Sciences, minors in Agricultural Education and Communications

SPECIALIZATIONS

Black Agrarianism, Food Justice, Food Sovereignty, Climate Justice, Agroecology,
Decolonization, Coloniality, Critical Pedagogy, Black Feminism, Participatory Inquiry
Methodologies, Decolonial Research Methodologies

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Political Education Outreach Coordinator, U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA)
November 2020 – April 2021

Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Philosophy, MSU
October 2019 – June 2020

Underserved Farmer Development Specialist, Michigan State University (MSU) Center for
Regional Food Systems (CRFS), East Lansing, MI
September 2013 – December 2017

Urban Farm Educator, The Urban Nutrition Initiative, Philadelphia, PA
February 2011 – August 2011

PEER-REVIWED PUBLICATIONS

Tyler, S. (2020). "Rematriating to the wombs of the world: Toward Black feminist agrarian ideologies." In Carolyn E. Sachs, Leif Jensen, Paige Castellanos and Kathleen Sexsmith (Eds), *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Agriculture*: Routledge, New York.

Baxter, K. Cooper, D. Fraser, A. Tyler, S. (Equal Authorship). (2017). "Womanism as Agrarianism: Black Women Healing Through Innate Agrarian Artistry." In Justine Williams and Eric Holt-Giménez (Eds), *Land Justice: Reimagining Land, Food and the Commons in the United States*: Food First Books.

Matts, C., Conner, D. S., Fisher, C., Tyler, S., & Hamm, M. W. (2015). Farmer perspectives of Farm to Institution in Michigan: 2012 survey results of vegetable farmers. *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*, 1-12.

Tyler, S., Rivers, L., Moore, E., Rosenbaum, R. (2014). "Michigan Black Farm Owners' Perceptions About Farm Ownership Credit Acquisition: A Critical Race Analysis." *Race, Gender, Class*: Vol. 21: No. 3-4. (pg. 232-251).

Tyler, S., Moore, E. (2013). "Plight of Black Farmers in the Context of USDA Farm Loan Programs: A Research Agenda for the Future." *Professional Agricultural Workers Journal*: Vol. 1: No. 1, Article 6.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Tyler, S., Anderson, R., Gregory, A. (2017). "Beginning Farmers: Crowdfunding for Small Farmers." Michigan Emerging Farmers. MSU Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS). Retrieved from <http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/crowdfunding-for-small-farmers>.

Tyler, S. (2017). "Beginning Farmers: Finding the Money You Need." Michigan Emerging Farmers. MSU Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS). Retrieved from <http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/beginningfarmers-finding-the-money-you-need>.

Tyler, S. Fraser, A. (2016). "Womanism and Agroecology: An Intersectional Praxis Seed Keeping as Acts of Political Warfare." In Phoebe Godfrey and Denise Torres (Eds), *Emergent Possibilities for Global Sustainability: Intersections of race, class and gender*. NY: Routledge.

Tyler, S. (2016). "More Support for Michigan's Beginning Farmers." Michigan Emerging Farmers. MSU Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS). Retrieved from http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigans_beginning_farmers_survey_summary.

Werkheiser, I. Tyler, S. Thompson, P. (2015). "Food Sovereignty: Two Conceptions of Food Justice." In J.M.Dieterle (Ed), *Just Food: Philosophy, Justice and Food*. London: Rowman and Littlefield International Limited.

Cocciarelli, S., Tyler, S. Kim, E., Obudzinski, J. (2014). “Strengthening Relationships between Lenders and Farmers of Color.” Roundtable Proceedings. MSU Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS). National Sustainable Agricultural Coalition (NSAC). Retrieved from http://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/strengthening_relationships_between_lenders_and_farmers_of_color.

Cocciarelli, S., Tyler, S. Kim, E., Obudzinski, J. (2014). Strengthening Relationships between Lenders and Farmers of Color. Roundtable Summary. MSU Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS). National Sustainable Agricultural Coalition (NSAC). Retrieved from <http://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/lender-farmer-roundtable-2014>.

Tyler, S., Matts, C., Hamm, M.W. (2012). *Farm to Institution: Specialty Distributor Perspective*. 70th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) proceedings.

Tyler, S. Moore, E. (2011). *The Plight of Black Farmers in the Context of USDA Farm Loan Programs*. Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resource, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) magazine, Issue 6 Volume 2.

Tyler, S. *Minorities in Agriculture*. (2010). The New Citizens Press. Issue September 12, 2010 – September 25, 2010. Retrieved from <http://www.tncp.net/Articles/tabid/1800/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/2455/As-I-See-It-Minorities-in-Agriculture.aspx>.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Afro-Indigenous Ecologies, Theorizing the Afro-Indigenous solidarity formations grounded in ecological epistememes resisting settler colonialism, white supremacy, heteropatriarchy and racial capitalism, October 2019 – June 2020

- Co-leading historiographical inquiry on the divergences and convergences of Black Diasporic and Indigenous land tenure relations

Black Agrarian Pedagogy, Three-part inquiry exploring how teaching and learning occurs in Black agrarian spaces via a historiography, case study and autoethnography, May 2017 – Present

- Examining the archives of Black agrarian educational institutions
- Conducting semi-structured interviews with volunteers and staff members of D-Town Farm, the urban agriculture project of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN)
- Developing autoethnographic fieldnotes based on my self-reflection as a researcher

AfroEco Exchange, Agroecological and cultural exchange between African-Americans and Afro-Cubans, June 2015 – January 2016

- Co-facilitated the planning and implementation of the Afro-Eco Exchange with the Southeast African American Organic Farmer’s Network (SAAFON) through a Christopher Reynolds Foundation grant.

Beginning Farmer Access to Financial Capital, Beginning Latinx and women farmers' access to financial capital in Michigan, December 2014 – December 2017

- Working with the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems, Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS), and MSU Student Organic Farm to expand and sustain access to financial capital for beginning farmers in Michigan, through a USDA Beginning Farmer Rancher Development Grant (BFRDG).

Michigan Black Farmer Owners' and Value of Farm Landownership, *What's Land Got to Do With It?*, May 2012 - December 2015

- Designed and conducted a **qualitative study** utilizing eleven semi-structured interviews with Michigan Black farm owners to inquire about farm ownership meanings and the role it plays in the pursuit of liberation and freedom.

Michigan Black Farmer Owners and Accessible Credit Markets, *Michigan Black Farm Owners' Perspectives of Accessible Credit Markets*, May 2012 – August 2013

- Designed and conducted a **qualitative study** utilizing eleven interviews with Michigan Black farm owners to inquire about experiences with farm loan programs and recommendations to potentially improve credit acquisition processes.

Black Farmers Access to Federal Financing, *The Plight of Black Farmers in the Context of USDA Farm Loan Programs: A Research Agenda for the Future*, May 2010 – May 2012

- Co-conducted a **historical study** on the plight of Black farmers to determine the severity of their struggles with an emphasis on four points: legislative initiatives, policy initiatives, USDA structure and delivery systems, and Pigford vs. Glickman class action lawsuit and consent decree, in order to provide an array of future research recommendations.

Farm to Institution, *Farm to Institution: Specialty Distributor Perspective*, August 2011 – December 2012

- Co-conducted a **qualitative study** utilizing ten interviews with Michigan specialty food distributors to inquire about motivations, benefits, and challenges in scaling up local food to institutional markets, in order to understand how small and medium-sized farms can succeed in institutional markets.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Tyler, S. Reese, A., Cooper, D., Baxter, K., Parks, A. (November 2018). Black Feminist Food Futures. **Presentation at the 2018 National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Annual Conference**, Atlanta, GA.

Tyler, S. (August 2018). "Farming While Black": The Recovery of Black Agrarian Pedagogies. **Presentation at the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America (ESA)**, New

Orleans, LA.

Tyler, S. Miller, S., Werkheiser, I. (August 2015). Using PGIS as a Postmodern Mapping Tool for Food Justice and Food Sovereignty Mapping in Michigan. **Presentation at Knowledge from the Margins Conference at Michigan State University**, East Lansing, MI.

Tyler, S., Snipstal, B., Hayes, C. (June 2015). Building an Agroecological and African Cultural Exchange between the African descendants in U.S. and Cuba – “The Afro-Eco exchange”. **Presentation at Seminar on Socialist Renewal and the Capitalist Crisis, Havana, Cuba.**

Tyler, S. (May 2015). “What’s Land Got to Do With It?” Presentation at **MSU Food Justice and Peace Workshop at Michigan State University**, East Lansing, MI.

Tyler, S. Werkheiser, I. (March 2015). “Possibilities for Food Sovereignty in a Metropolis”. Presentation at **Feeding Cities Workshop at Northeastern University**, Boston, MA.

Tyler, S. Matts, C. (June 2013). “Farm to Institution in Michigan: Where Are We Now?” Presentation at **Toward Sustainable Foodscapes and Landscapes, Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Conference at Michigan State University**, East Lansing, MI.

Tyler, S., Moore, E. (December 2012). *The Plight of Black Farmers in the Context of USDA Farm Loan Programs: A Research Agenda for the Future*. Paper presented at **70th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) at Tuskegee University**, Tuskegee, AL.

Tyler, S., Matts, C., Hamm, M.W. (December 2012). *Farm to Institution: Specialty Distributor Perspective*. Paper presented at **70th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) at Tuskegee University**, Tuskegee, AL.

Tyler, S. Moore, E. (September 2012). Perceptions of Michigan Black Farmers About Accessible Credit Markets. Poster with preliminary findings of thesis research presented at the **2012 Fall Michigan AGEP Alliance Conference at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.**

Tyler, S. Moore, E. (2010). *The Plight of Black Farmers in the Context of USDA Farm Loan Programs: A Research Agenda for the Future*. Poster presented at **Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP)-McNair Scholars Program Research Symposium at Ohio State University**, Columbus, OH.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Co-presented a webinar on Black agrarian history and resistance formations for **2020 Detroit Outdoors and Black to the Land Coalition’s Maada'oonidiwag - Black Liberation and Indigenous Sovereignty**, Virtual.

Co-presented a webinar on Histories of Detroit Urban Agriculture and Racial Equity for the **2020 MSU Extension Tollgate Farm Racial Equity Series**, Virtual.

Presented a webinar on the History of Black Farmers through a statewide and national lens for the **2020 MSUE Fall Extension Conference**, Virtual.

Presented workshop on Nature-Centered Self-Care for the **MSU Womxn of Color Initiative Series**, Lansing, MI.

Presented keynote speech at the **2018 Washetnaw Local Food Summit**, Ann Arbor, MI.

Presented a workshop on Afroecology as a Social Methodology at the **2016 Black Farmers and Urban Gardners Conference**, Bronx, NY.

Presented a workshop on Diagramming your Food System at **2016 Our Kitchen Table monthly gathering**, Grand Rapids, MI.

Presented on the Food Justice Panel at the **2015 Black Farmers and Urban Gardeners Conference**, Detroit, MI.

Co-presented workshop on “Farm to Institution – 20% real food challenge” at the **Everybody Eats Conference Cultivating Food Democracy 3.0**, Lansing, MI

Co-presented workshop on “Youth Engagement in Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Careers” and “Careers in Agriculture, and Natural Resources” at the **2014 Michigan Family Farms Conference**, Battlecreek, MI.

Presented workshop on “Participatory Action Research Techniques with Black Farming Communities” at the **2013 Black Farmers and Urban Gardeners Conference**, Brooklyn, NY.

Co-presented workshop on “Engaging Pathways in Food, Agriculture, and Health Sciences” at **Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) 28th Annual conference**, Sacramento, CA.

Co-presented workshop on “Youth Engagement in Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Careers” and “Careers in Agriculture, and Natural Resources” at the **2013 Michigan Family Farms Conference**, Battlecreek, MI.

Co-presented workshop on “Alternative Careers in Agricultural Education” at the **Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) 27th Annual conference**, Atlanta, GA.

Co-presented workshop on “Youth Engagement in Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Careers” and “Careers in Agriculture, and Natural Resources” at the **2012 Michigan Family Farms Conference**, Battlecreek, MI.

Co-presented workshop on “Youth Engagement in Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Careers” at the **2012 Everybody Eats Conference**, Lansing, MI

MEDIA AND PUBLIC OUTREAH

Michigan Public Radio's Stateside Program. (2017). “Problematic USDA farm loans disenfranchise non-white and female farmers, says advocate.” Retrieved from <https://www.michiganradio.org/post/problematic-usda-farm-loans-disenfranchise-non-white-and-female-farmers-says-advocate>.

Detroit Black Community Food Security Network PSA. (2018). “DBCFSN PSA” by Reflect Media Group. Retrieved from <https://vimeo.com/318123880>.

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund (DBFLF)

Co-coordinator, Recruited to work on 4-member team comprised of four Detroit urban agriculture organizations (Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, Keep Growing Detroit and Oakland Avenue Farm) to support Black growers/farmers in Detroit through funding to purchase land, 2019-Present

Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN)

Board President, Elected Board President to manage the board of directors, lead organizational fundraising and ensure the 501c3 organization is in full compliance with federal and state regulations, 2017 – Present

Detroit People’s Food Co-op (DPFC)

Board member, Appointed to oversee the development and governance of the emerging Black-led food cooperative, March 2019 – Present

Detroit Health Department (DHD)

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment **Subcommittee Researcher**, Appointed to provide feedback on the qualitative design of the Detroit Community Health Assessment, 2018 – 2019

Southeastern African American Farmers Organic Network (SAAFON)

Ambassador, Assisting SAAFON director and board members with project development, funding acquisition, and outreach to black farmers in the southern U.S., 2015 – 2017

NorthWest Initiative (NWI)

Volunteer Coordinator, Duties include forming and sustaining social relationships with Michigan State University groups and organizations to recruit reliable and responsible volunteers for the Food Systems Project (FSP)

Key focal area: diverse and inclusive recruitment focusing on students of color, 2012 – 2013

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS)

Member of Publication Committee, Duties include collecting submissions, editing submissions, and assisting leading editor with magazine layout, 2010 – 2012

HONORS & AWARDS

National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship, 2018

(35 recipients out of 400 applicants)

The Academy undertakes research studies to address pressing issues in education and administers professional development programs to enhance the preparation of the next generation of education scholars.

Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change (GJEC) Dissertation Fellowship, 2017

The Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen) offers a variety of funding opportunities for graduate students. The GJEC Program sponsors a set of Dissertation Fellowships, with up to 6 awarded annually.

Gamma Sigma Delta (The Honor Society of Agriculture), 2012

1st Place 2012 Award in Graduate Poster Competition at 70th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) at Tuskegee University

1st Place 2012 Award in Graduate Oral Presentation Competition at 70th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) at Tuskegee University

Soroptimist International Women's Opportunity Award, 2010

(1 recipient out of 30 applicants)

The program assists women who are primary financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.