

MATTHEW J. DEL SESTO

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EDUCATION

- Expected* PhD in Sociology, Boston College
2022 *Area exams: Environmental Sociology (passed with Distinction);
Sociology of Crime, Deviance, and Social Control (passed with Distinction)*
- 2017 MA in Sociology, *with Distinction*, Boston College
Thesis: People-Plant Interactions and the Ecological Self
- 2015 Coursework in Horticultural Therapy, The New York Botanical Garden
*Nine credits undergraduate coursework and field study in Landscape
Design, Therapeutic Practice/Methods, and Program Management*
- 2014 MA in Theories of Urban Practice, *with Honors*, Parsons School of Design
Thesis: Social and Spatial Dimensions of Urban Agriculture Initiatives
- 2012 BA in Human Development and Philosophy, *Magna Cum Laude*, Boston College
Focus on Community, Advocacy, and Social Policy
- 2010 Coursework in Urban Studies and Planning, University of Pennsylvania
Introduction to City Planning

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2018-present Founder and Coordinator, Inside-Out Program, Boston College
- 2017-present Lecturer / Teaching Fellow, Sociology Department, Boston College
- 2015 Lecturer, Parsons School of Design, The New School

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

sociology of crime and deviance; environmental sociology; design and social innovation; urban studies; sustainable communities and environmental justice; environmental design; community engagement and community-based learning; social theory; participatory research methods and action research

GRANTS

2019-2022	National Science Foundation, “Social and Ecological Infrastructure for Recidivism Reduction,” with Stephen Pfohl (\$49,950)
2018-2021	The Hearst Foundations, “Community-University Partnerships for Education and Reintegration of Incarcerated Students,” with Stephen Pfohl and David Goodman (\$100,000)
2021	Ivan Brown Graduate Research Grant, Boston College Sociology Department, “Design and the Social Imagination” (\$605)
2018	Summer Research Fellowship, Boston College Sociology Department, “Cooperative Practices, Prisons, and Reentry” (\$5000)
2017	Summer Research Grant / Kelsey A. Rennebohm Memorial Fellowship, Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice, “Roots of Resistance and Resilience: Agroecology Tactics for Resettlement in El Salvador” (\$1,250)
2017	Research Expense Grant, Boston College Sociology Department, “Roots of Resistance and Resilience: Agroecology Tactics for Resettlement in El Salvador” (\$300)
2016	Summer Research Fellowship, Boston College Sociology Department, “Solidarity in Everyday Life: Urban Agriculture from Detroit to New York” (\$5,000)

AWARDS AND HONORS

2022	Scholarly Achievement Award for teaching and mentoring, Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems
2021	Robert Dentler Award for outstanding achievement in Sociological Practice and Public Sociology, American Sociological Association
2021	Benedict S. Alper Graduate Fellowship, Sociology Department, Boston College
2020	Ritchie P. Lowry Research Fellowship, Sociology Department, Boston College
2019	Donald J. White Teaching Excellence Award, Boston College
2016	STS Italia Conference Scholarship, The Italian Society for Social Studies of Science and Technology
2016	Coolidge Scholar, Auburn / CrossCurrents Interdisciplinary Research Colloquium on Climate Change, Food and Sustainability, Auburn Seminary, New York City
2015	Linda Ciccantelli Memorial Scholarship, awarded for horticultural therapy study, Mid-Atlantic Horticultural Therapy Network

- 2014 John L. Tishman Scholarship, for outstanding civic engagement and academic achievement with commitment to sustainability, Parsons School of Design
- 2012-2014 Dean's Scholarship and University Scholarship, merit awards for graduate study, Parsons School of Design

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed book

Under contract *Design and the Social Imagination* (Bloomsbury Publishing)

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- forthcoming* "Inside-Out as Humanistic Pedagogy," *Humanity and Society* (with David L. Sellers)
- forthcoming* "Reckoning with Christopher Columbus," *Contexts*
- 2021 "Contested Theories of Prison Labor Practice," *Sociology Compass*, volume 15, issue 7
- 2021 "Norfolk's 'Model Prison Community,' Howard Belding Gill, and the social process of prison reform," *The Prison Journal*, volume 101, issue 2, pages 127-146
- 2020 "People-plant interactions and the ecological self," *Plants, People, Planet*, volume 2, issue 3, pages 201-211
- 2019 "Forming and Opening the Socio-spatial Logic of Constraint," *Tecnoscienza: Italian Journal of Science and Technology Studies*, volume 10, issue 2, pages 99-119
- 2019 "Roots of resistance and resilience: Agroecology tactics for resettlement in El Salvador," *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, volume 9, issue 1, pages 101-117 (with Megan Donovan)
- 2015 "Cities, gardening, and urban citizenship: Transforming vacant acres into community resources," *Cities and the Environment*, volume 8, issue 2, article 3
- 2015 "Growing food and community: Long term land management in Boston," *Cities and the Environment*, volume 8, issue 2, article 22

Book reviews

- 2017 Review of *Civic Ecology: Adaptation and Transformation from the Ground Up* (MIT Press, 2015), by Marianne Krasny and Keith Tidball, *Agriculture and Human Values*, volume 34, issue 2, pages 499-500
- 2017 Review of *Green Care: For Human Therapy, Social Innovation, Rural Economy, and Education* (NOVA Science Publishers Press, 2013), edited by Christos Gallis, *Agriculture and Human Values*, volume 34, issue 1, pages 239-240

Journal articles under review

under review “W.E.B. Du Bois and Designs for Abolition Democracy,” *Design and Culture*

under review “Therapeutic Horticulture and Desistance,” *The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*

OTHER SELECTED WRITING & REPORTS

2021 “Proceedings of the Next Steps Workshop,” Conference on Social and Ecological Infrastructure for Recidivism Reduction, Boston College and Yale School of the Environment

2020 “Advancing Transformative Learning Partnerships,” Report on the *Boston College Inside-Out Program* (with Danielle Chaparro and Allison Pyo), bit.ly/BCInsideOutReport

2019 “The First Five Years,” An Organizational Report for *The New Garden Society* (with Erika Rumbly, Renée Portanova, and Allison Meierding)

2016 “Horticultural therapy: what is it and why is it important?” *The New Garden Society: Notes from the Field*, thenewgardensociety.org

2014 “Developing future-oriented histories of urban renewal,” *Laboratory for Designing Urban Transformation Blog*, trulab.org

2014 “We could have studied city-making,” in *The Urban Reviewer Reader*, edited by Paula Z. Segal, published by 596 Acres, New York City

2014 “Gardens as infrastructure of democracy?” *Laboratory for Designing Urban Transformation Blog*, trulab.org

2014 “Learning from 5Pointz: What the graffiti mecca teaches us about the creation of public space,” *The Global Urbanist*: globalurbanist.com

2013 “Designing the Public Realm,” Report on Urban Practice Graduate Workshop, Parsons School of Design

2013 “Inside Rikers Island with the jail-to-street GreenHouse Program by the Horticultural Society of New York,” *Untapped Cities*: untappedcities.com

2013 “The contested history of urban gardens in New York City,” *The Global Urbanist*: globalurbanist.com

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2022 “Remaking the social: Theorizing in and through practice,” Design Research Society Conference, Bilbao, Spain

- 2022 “Theory and method in the sociological practice of Hull House,” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
- 2020 “Unwinding green ideologies of correctional rehabilitation and reform,” Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (cancelled)
- 2020 “The contested ethics of prison labor,” Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (cancelled)
- 2019 “Ecology as a way of seeing,” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 “Measuring the impact of Inside-Out courses,” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 “Urban ecological infrastructure for resettlement,” Conference on Infrastructural Futures Across Cities of the Global North, The University of Manchester, Manchester, UK
- 2018 “Developing community-university partnerships for prison education,” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- 2018 “Howard Belding Gill, Norfolk’s ‘model prison community,’ and the social process of criminal justice reform,” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- 2017 “Thinking ecologically: Horticulture, politics, and identity,” Psychology and the Other Conference, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA
- 2017 “People-plant interactions in an urban society,” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- 2016 “The emergence of ecological self,” 6th STS Italia *Conference on Socio-technical Environments*, University of Trento, Italy
- 2016 “The potential of horticulture as a restorative practice: lessons from prison gardeners,” 21st Conference of the International Institute for Restorative Practices, Bethlehem, PA
- 2016 “Urban agriculture as spatial agency,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA
- 2016 “Solidarity in everyday life: The culture of sustainable urban agriculture,” The Spirit of Sustainable Agriculture Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

- 2014 “Growing food and community: Establishing long term land management,” Conference on Turning Vacant Acres into Community Resources, Tishman Environment and Design Center, The New School, New York, NY
- 2014 “The insurgent gardener confronts conventional green design,” presenter & panel moderator at Urbanist Discourses Symposium, The New School, New York, NY

INVITED SPEAKING & LECTURES

- 2021 “Are prisons separate from society?” Pulled Up Short Podcast, Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
- 2019 “Transforming correctional landscapes,” Problem-Solving Sociology Workshop, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2019 “Lessons from Inside-Out,” 4Boston Annual Spring Teach-In, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
- 2018 “Roots of resistance and resilience: Agroecology tactics for resettlement,” Center for Human Rights and International Justice, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
- 2016 “Environmental justice and urban agriculture,” Sustainability in Prisons Project / Evergreen State College, Aberdeen, WA
- 2016 “The social context and history of prison gardens,” 40th Annual Gardeners Gathering, Northeastern University, Boston, MA
- 2016 “The power of people-plant interactions,” United States Forest Service, New York City Urban Field Station, New York, NY
- 2015 “Spatial agency and the food justice movement,” Movement/Media Research Action Project (MRAP), Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
- 2014 “We could have studied city-making,” Emerging Urban Practices Symposium, Parsons School of Design, New York, NY
- 2014 “The social consequences of design,” Guest Lecture for Aseem Inam’s course on “Designing Urban Transformation,” Parsons School of Design, New York, NY
- 2014 “Pier to pier lab: Informal urbanisms in São Paulo,” presentation about collaborative research in São Paulo, Brazil and New York, NY
- 2013 “Urban agriculture and neighborhood transformation,” *Transforming Urbanism, Transforming Cities* colloquium, Parsons School of Design, New York, NY

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston College (courses taught)

- *Introductory Sociology*: Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2020 (two hybrid sections), Fall 2021 (two sections for BC Prison Education Program at Massachusetts Correctional Institution- Shirley), Spring 2022
- *Inside Out: Perspectives on Crime, Corrections and Justice*: Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2022 (developed course as part of Inside-Out Program, which involves students from campus and incarcerated students that meets at Suffolk County House of Correction)
- *Social Psychology*: Spring 2020 (for incarcerated students as part of Inside-Out Program at Suffolk County House of Correction)
- *Building Sustainable Communities*: Summer 2018 (developed this community-based learning course with sessions in Boston and Detroit)
- *Undergraduate Independent Study or Thesis Advisor*: Spring 2018 (1), Spring 2019 (1), Fall 2019 (1), Spring 2020 (1), Spring 2022 (1)

Boston College (teaching assistant / discussion section instructor)

- *Social Research Methods*: Fall 2015 (graded student work, held office hours, and led two weekly discussion sections)
- *People and Nature: The Past and Future of Human Impacts on the Environment*: Spring 2016, Fall 2016 (graded student work, held office hours, and led one weekly discussion section)
- *Peace or War*: Spring 2017 (graded student work and held office hours)

Boston University Prison Education Program (teaching assistant)

- *Urban Sociology* (Massachusetts Correctional Institution- Norfolk)
- *Introductory Botany* (one section at Massachusetts Correctional Institution- Norfolk and one section at Massachusetts Correctional Institution- Framingham)

Parsons School of Design (courses taught)

- *Sustainable Systems*: Spring 2015, Summer 2015 (required for first-year design undergraduates)
- *Designing Urban Agriculture*: Spring 2015 (developed curriculum for this community-based learning elective in Integrated Design)

OTHER SELECTED EXPERIENCE

2016-present **Advisory Board** at *The New Garden Society*, Boston

- Lead working groups on program evaluation, outreach and regional organizing
- Advise on organizational development and strategy to collaborate with diverse stakeholders from corrections, green industry, and community-based organizations, for the design and implementation of horticultural spaces and programs

2012-2015 **GreenHouse Assistant** at *Horticultural Society of NY*, New York City

- Worked with program participants and staff in classroom, greenhouse, and field sites to design & maintain landscapes for vocational, therapeutic, and educational horticulture programs
- Conducted ongoing research and outreach to possible collaborators

- 2013-2014 **Research Fellow** at *596 Acres*, New York City
- Prepared overall narrative, content, and urban renewal plan database for the first comprehensive online map of NYC Urban Renewal plans: urbanreviewer.org
 - Conducted research in weekly data-collection sessions, coordinated with NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development Records Office
 - Managed 596 Acres volunteer data-collection team
- 2011-2012 **Research Assistant** at *Environmental Justice Action Media*, Boston
- Conducted and transcribed interviews for research about the impacts of environmental education curricula
- 2011 **Community Outreach Intern** at *The American City Coalition*, Boston
- Implemented neighborhood research and outreach strategy to build a coalition of community businesses and social service organizations
 - Developed needs assessment of neighborhood residents and businesses

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Events, panels, and conferences organized

- Workshop on Humanistic Interventions in the Context of Incarceration and Reentry, 2021
- Social and Ecological Infrastructure for Recidivism Reduction (virtual conference with 19 sessions), co-convened by Yale School of the Environment and Boston College, 2021
- Forum on Reentry (panel), 2021
- After Prison Education (panel), Boston College, 2020
- Moving Beyond the Walls That Separate Us (panel), Boston College, 2020
- Justice Inside-Out Speaker + Film Series (four events), Boston College, 2020
- Emerging Urban Practices (day long symposium), Parsons School of Design, 2014

Peer-reviews

Sociology (1 article), *Cities and the Environment* (2 articles), *Tecnoscienza: Italian Journal of Science and Technology Studies* (1 article), Bloomsbury (1 book manuscript)